CAMPS AND CALLUSES

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THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS IN SOUTHWESTERN OREGON

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2014

ISBN 978-0-692-21439-8

First Printing June 2014

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Editor: Karalynn Ott

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PREFACE

This book came about by accident. A couple of years ago, I was in a department store in my hometown of North Bend, Oregon, when I was stopped by a good friend and asked if I had a topic in mind for my next local history book. I've written a few of them and have, to some, become known as a local historian. Up to that point, I really had not given it much thought.

My friend's name was Chuck Goodwin and I had known him for many years. His job prior to retirement was to implement the Oregon Forest Practices Act regulations in Coos County, Oregon, where I live and where I'd spent 37 years working for a timber company. As such, Chuck had driven just about every back forest road in the county and he knew a lot about the area's local history. He asked: "Did I know that there was a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp at Sitkum, in Coos County"? My answer was No! According to Chuck, his father had been an enrollee at that camp in the mid-1930's and Chuck had a photograph of the camp. I sensed that he was trying to entice me into researching more about it.

Following my graduation from the Yale School of Forestry in 1969, I began working for Menasha Corporation, whose timber headquarters was in North Bend, Oregon. My job was to inspect the company's young timberlands scattered throughout southwestern Oregon—quite a large area. As such, I too had driven just about every back forest road in the region. When Chuck inquired if I knew about the Corps in the area, I said that the only thing I knew of was a short spur road near Cherry Creek that was called the CCC Road, but other than that, nothing more. While his question was in itself not especially inspiring to me at the time, it nonetheless somehow created an "itch" that needed to be "scratched"—eventually leading me to investigate the subject of the Civilian Conservation Corps in our area. Were there many CCC camps in the area? I wondered. What did they accomplish?

The project seemed like it might fit quite nicely with my other books about the rich rural history of southwestern Oregon. My first book dealt with the area's timber industry and mainly focused on the Menasha Corporation's first 100 years in Coos Bay, Oregon. It was followed by a book on the local logging railroads in Coos County and how the Southern Pacific rail line came to town, as well as how the timber in our area helped the Allies defeat the German Kaiser Wilhelm II during World War I. These studies were followed by a book on the history of the area one-room school houses. The research for these three volumes covered a span of six or seven years, and while they don't qualify as a trilogy, they do fit together as pieces of a puzzle I've enjoyed assembling, creating a picture, and a record, of the "olden days" in southwestern Oregon.

Yet in all that prior work, I never ran across any references to the CCC in our area. Chuck's question had opened a new avenue for me to investigate. And so my work started. I first submitted an article about my project to the local newspaper, hoping to generate contact with past "graduates" of the Corps who I could interview. The response was absolute silence—and that worried me. I did, however, do the math as to how old the "youngest" Corps enrollee would be in 2013; he would be 90 years young! So the local silence wasn't too surprising. I also placed an article in the national CCC Legacy Association newsletter, asking for contacts from enrollees elsewhere who had served in the camps in southwestern Oregon—and again the result was silence. I became concerned that there simply might be insufficient information to construct a book. But the harder the challenge, the more my interest grew. The more I learned (and didn't learn), the more motivated I became to collect in one place any and all facts and figures about the Corps in our area, and to tell a story about the work they performed. There had to be information somewhere! After all, I knew the CCC had been a fairly large-scale program, and I knew that it had to have had at least some presence in southwestern Oregon.

My next stop was the Internet (of course), and I followed each lead I found there until it became a circular proposition. Then I was off to every museum and library throughout western Oregon—and beyond. I spent days at

the National Archives in Seattle, Washington, pouring over Bankers Boxes full of papers about the Corps in the Pacific Northwest gleaning anything I could about its presence in southwestern Oregon.

On multiple occasions, and mostly just out of curiosity, I would ask people on the street if they knew of the Civilian Conservation Corps from their high school history classes. Most responded with vague answers, while others said they thought it was associated in some way or other with World War II. Only a few knew that it was part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal solution to the Great Depression in America.

It became apparent that to demonstrate to my future readers the importance of the CCC camps, I first needed to develop a background about the economic and social conditions that had spread across America during the 1920s, the political realities they had created—and why and how the CCC became a real part of the solutions to the country's ills. The research was timely, as in 2012 the United States was just emerging from the Great Recession of 2008–2009, whose repercussions had gripped the country for the previous several years. I thought there were many correlations between 1929 and 2008, and that readers could draw their own conclusions about the success of each era's solution.

My goals for the book then became threefold: to provide a cohesive background story that led to the election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt as President in 1932 and to the creation of the CCC; to create a record of and describe life in the camps in southwestern Oregon; and finally, to provide descriptions of the projects the "boys" of the Corps accomplished in our area—they built roads, bridges, parks, and most of all provided the manpower to fight the forest fires that frequently occurred during the summer months.

I wanted to provide specific details about the CCC's creations, as many still exist today, yet without credit being given to the men who built them. My overarching goal was to create a reference book about the Corps in our area; I did not want to create an index of the names of men who served, but rather to describe the camps and the local projects the men undertook by using old photographs and stories gleaned from camp newspapers.

The reader will note that there is a disproportionate amount of information from camp to camp; some have a large amount of detail and photographs, while others have only tidbits of information. Simply put, I exhausted all the sources I could find for each camp and the reality is that much has been lost to the dustbin of history. Hopefully the book does as much justice to each camp as humanly possible, even where information is threadbare.

My hope is that those who read this book will be inspired to check into their past lineage and learn that one of their ancestors served as an enrollee in one of the 4,000 CCC camps spread across America from 1933–1942. Over 3,000,000 young men served in in those camps—some for only the six-month initial service period, while others stayed the maximum of two years. Historians are consistent in praising the Corps for preparing many young men from throughout our country for the disciplines of war.

I will leave you here with one question to ponder: Was this CCC project a successful social experiment that helped pull the country out of the Great Depression? See what you think after reading.

For an excellent summary of the construct of the Civilian Conservation Corps, I direct you to a recent book by Edward "Ned" Slagle: *Recalling the Civilian Conservation Corps: The History of the CCC* (2010).

Thank you for exploring this topic with me.

—William A. "Bill" Lansing, North Bend, Oregon, 2014

Camp Rand ca. 1939. Photo courtesy of Bureau of Land Management Medford District.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My feelings about making a list of acknowledgments to those who helped construct this book falls into the same philosophy I developed about writing history books. For the most part, very little references are made to people in any of my books, or as I say in almost every preface; this is not an album to someone's parent or grandparent. I made this decision years ago out of sincere fear that I would unconsciously leave someone out of the story that I had promised to include. Hence my books are generally about places and projects with an effort to connect the two together.

Acknowledgments have the same problem. If I acknowledge one, I will undoubtedly forget to acknowledge someone else. So I have taken the easy road and will only thank those who helped me with the book. If you did, you know who you are and so do I.

INTRODUCTION

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was just one of the many programs introduced by Franklin Delano Roosevelt shortly after taking over the office of president of the United States in 1933. With an amazing speed almost unheard of today, the legislation that created the Emergency Conservation Work Act (the precursor to the CCC) took only 10 days from introduction to passage; the CCC program was launched two weeks later. Thirty-seven days after Roosevelt took office, the first enrollee in the program signed up.

Enrollees were unmarried and unemployed men between the ages of 18–25. By June 1933, 400 CCC camps were in operation scattered across the nation, filled with 250,000 of these young men, who were delivered from a life of poverty in the country's largest cities to the conditioning camps on existing army bases. It would be here that the enrollees were prepared for the physically demanding life in the CCC camps. While at these conditioning camps, enrollees were assigned to a specific "company". Each company was given an "official number" that stayed with that group as it moved off base to the CCC camp. A "company" might move from one CCC camp to another as the need arose or as the 6-month enrollment Period ended for its enrollees. At first this designation was confusing to me, because several different companies from different army bases might be assigned to a specific CCC camp over time yet I learned that no two companies occupied a single camp at the same time. Understanding this process will help the reader track the activities of a CCC camp over its lifetime.

All told, 3,463,766 men passed through the Corps during its nine years of existence, and 4,500 different primary camps were built. This tally didn't include the thousands of "side camps" built to reduce the travel time from the main camps to many of the work sites. Every state in the Union, as well as the then-territories of Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, had camps. The total cost of the program over its life was in excess of $3 billion. The program was a national success for a Depression ridden economy. The $25 sent to their families each month by the enrollees helped the folks back home and the $5 per month left in the pockets of the men were quickly spent in the local communities for dances and other socializing. Furthermore, the food needed to feed 200 men in camp added to the economy of the local farmers and merchants. Most, if not all, of the interviews of the CCC enrollees that I read while researching this book exclaimed that their experience in the Corps prepared them for a successful life. A few of those comments will be found in later chapters.

Since the camps were run by reserve U.S. Army officers, the men became accustomed to the army way of life. As such, one of the side benefits of the CCC was to prepare the army on the mechanics of running a large-scale logistics program. Likewise, several of the Corps enrollees, amply prepared, simply enlisted in the military service when World War II began. In fact, and as the drums of war grew louder, the activities in the CCC camps turned away from simple military discipline to something akin to mini-boot camps.

Times in the country changed, however, and the CCC wasn't to last. The program ceased six months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. However, many of the camps continued to operate during the war—some to house conscientious objectors, while others were used to hold Japanese prisoners. Several camps were transferred directly to the army to be used as true boot camps, preparing young men for the trials of war.

This book looks at a small slice of the entire CCC program, focusing on southwestern Oregon. My defined area is bordered on the north by the town of Reedsport, on the east by Interstate 5, on the south by the California border, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean. Within this geography lay three types of federal government land where the camps were located,— the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the United States Forest Service (USFS), and the National Park Service (NPS). In addition, there was one camp located on Oregon State Department of Forestry land, and a few camps on private land that was leased by the federal government from individuals or companies. The area was

mostly managed by the Medford District of the Corps—which one article I ran across described as being "America's most beautiful CCC district." It certainly is a rough, beautiful, intensely dramatic region, as you'll see in the many photographs included here.

At the CCC's beginning (April to November 1933), Oregon had 64 camps sprinkled across the state populated by 12,800 men. Facts and figures about the number of men who passed through the 17 camps discussed in this book are all but impossible to find. CCC companies came and went, often on sporadic timetables, and side camps were set up without specific enrollment documented. Suffice to say; the many thousands of enrollees who came to the CCC camps in southwestern Oregon from Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, and other large American cities would see their lives change dramatically.

The main theme of the book is the CCC camps themselves—where were they located, when and how were they built, which companies occupied the camps, and over what time frame. In addition, considerable effort has been made to describe in some detail the projects that the camps undertook, as these are the only remaining evidence of the existence of the Corps in our area. The camp buildings are all gone, along with any evidence of any cement foundations, but the roads, parks and rockwork can still be found—even if there is no plaque to commemorate the work. And finally, the book ends with a chapter on the Civilian Public Service program for conscientious objectors at Camp Elkton, in the northern region of the book's focus area.

The book is organized into four main parts:

Part I provides background on the condition of the country leading up to the Great Depression, the election of FDR in 1933, the New Deal, and the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Part II sheds light on the leadership of the Emergency Conservation Work Program (later called the Civilian Conservation Corps) and on the enrollees themselves.

Part III gives an overview of what life was like in a CCC camp.

Part IV focuses on the specific camps in southwestern Oregon: their creation, the work they did, and their legacy.

A smaller section, **Part V**, talks about the end of the CCC and the creation of the Civilian Public Service.

The Appendix provides some relevant documents that were too detailed to include in the main body of the book.

Long lines of people would form outside churches and government buildings waiting to be fed; free food was distributed with private funds in some urban centers to large numbers of unemployed. Courtesy of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library at the National Archives and Records Administration.

PART I

A SHATTERED AND TATTERED NATION NEEDS HELP

Homeless vagabonds looking for work sneaked aboard the freight trains that crisscrossed the nation. One estimate suggested a million young boys and girls rode the rails.[6]

Top photo courtesy of the Library of Congress 3c28436u; right photo courtesy of the city of Toronto, California f1244.

Before we go about exploring the Southwestern Oregon CCC camps and projects, it seems appropriate to back up a bit and give the reader some context as to why and how the CCC itself came about—and how this massive program got up and running.

FROM BOOM TO BUST

Much has been written about the Roaring '20s and the aftermath of the stock market crash of October 29, 1929 (Black Tuesday), but sadly there are few left among us that are old enough to have really experienced and learned from the tragedies brought on during the Great Depression that followed.

My intention here is not to restate the detailed history of what led to the Depression, but in order to grasp an understanding of the Civilian Conservation Corps in general and the CCC in southwestern Oregon in particular, we do need to spend a little time investigating what led up to the greatest economic crisis the United States has experienced, which in turn led to the birth of the CCC.

The crash of 1929 is generally cited as the nexus of the Great Depression, with the blame pointed at the unprecedented paper wealth of the Roaring '20s; a period when the American general public discovered the stock market and dove in head first. The ensuing crash wiped out people's investments and the public was understandably shaken. When bank failures erased the savings of those who weren't even heavily invested in the stock market, throngs of people were left shattered and broke. It would take the next 12 years of trial and error policies by the federal government, including the CCC program to slowly create a meager recovery—but even these would not fully erase the impacts of the Great Depression until the end of World War II.

The crash followed a speculative boom that had taken hold in the mid-1920s.The United States was coming through a time of spectacular economic growth. During the latter half of the decade, steel production, building construction, retail turnover, automobile sales, and even railway receipts broke record upon record. For the first six months of 1929 the combined net profits of 536 manufacturing and trading companies in the U.S. showed an increase of 36.6 percent over that in 1928. Times were good! There was so much work, unemployment hovered around 3 percent.

Such figures set up a crescendo of stock-exchange speculation, which led hundreds of thousands of Americans to invest heavily in the equity markets. A significant number of them were borrowing money to buy more stock. By August 1929, brokers were routinely lending small investors more than two-thirds of the face value of the stocks they were buying. Over $8.5 billion was out on loan from brokers and bankers—more than the entire amount of currency circulating in the U.S. at the time. [1-3]

The rising stock prices encouraged more and more people to invest. Everybody wanted a piece of the pie. Speculation thus fueled further rises in share prices and created an economic bubble. On September 3, 1929, the Dow Jones Industrial Average hit a peak of 381.2—and people were certain that the strong bull market would continue. But the situation was precarious. Because such a great amount of investors were buying shares of private corporations on margin (buying stock with borrowed funds), investors stood to lose large sums of money if the market turned down—or even if it failed to advance quickly.

The market began to falter within days after reaching its peak. Three large investment banks (Morgan Bank, Chase National Bank, and National City Bank of New York) stepped in and began buying stocks in hopes of bolstering the market. For a time that strategy worked, but on Thursday October 24, 1929 the dike began to crumble. The following Monday, the sell-off kicked into high gear with the market dropping 13 percent. On Tuesday, the market fell another 12 percent—history has recorded this date as "Black Tuesday"—October 29, 1929. The market lost $30 billion in two days. The brokers called in their loans and people were wiped out. Business "tycoons" purchased failing businesses for pennies on the dollar. Rather than succumb to that indignity, some business owners simply shuttered their work places. Homeowners could not pay their mortgages and simply "turned the keys back to the bankers," their life savings vanishing under their crushing debt.

But while the majority of the bust was quick, the U.S. economy's downhill trajectory persisted for some time afterward.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average continued to slide for the next three years. It finally hit bottom on July 8, 1932, closing at 41.22. All told, it lost nearly 90 percent of its value since its peak on September 3, 1929.[4]

THE INITIAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

So, how did the U.S. government respond to these tragedies? The Federal Reserve cut the money supply to banks by nearly a third, thus choking off capital that would have helped industry retool and rehire (just the opposite experienced in the Great Recession of 2008). Consequently, many banks suffered liquidity problems (insufficient capital reserves to meet their obligations to depositors) and they simply went under. The result was that the "run" on bank deposits "went viral." The Fed's harsh reaction, while difficult to understand in hindsight, may have occurred because it wished to give Wall Street some tough love by refusing to bail out careless bankers.

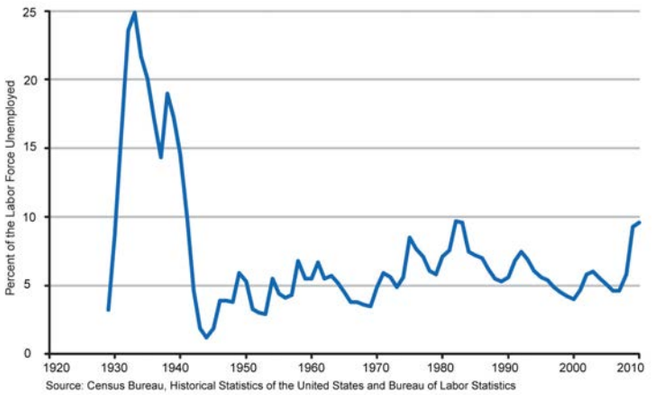
Ironically, by increasing the money supply and keeping interest rates low during the roaring twenties, the Fed instigated the rapid expansion that arguably preceded the collapse. In some ways, it set up the market bubble leading to the crash and then kicked the U.S. economy when it was down by not rescuing the failing banks. [5]

Did the stock market crash of 1929 start the Great Depression? Probably! Without question, the billions of dollars lost by Americans in the stock market crash created a confidence problem at three levels in the country: the employer, the banks, and the consumer. Since the banks had a severe liquidity problem, they would only make loans to very strong borrowers—and these were few and far between. Without capital, smaller companies could not grow or even remain status quo, so they laid off many of their employees in an effort to survive. This action pushed the general unemployment rate in the United States to an astonishing 25 percent by 1933, with 13 million Americans looking for work. (And 37 percent of non-farm workers were completely out of work!)

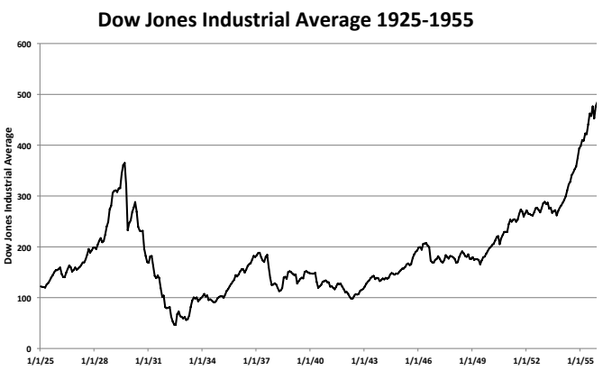
Compared to the Great Recession that gripped the United States (and the rest of the world) at the end of the first decade of the new century, the following graphic presentation of the Unemployment rate during the Great Depression presents a much bleaker picture.

The result was truly tragic: living conditions for many were at an all-time low, with poor housing, minimal health provisions, and insufficient food and clothing. People were literally starving, and many lost their farms and homes.

These astonishing conditions settled into the country's fragile psyches, and set the stage for the 1932 election—and a man whose plan for economic recovery included the creation of the CCC.



U.S. Unemployment Rate 1929–2010



Dow Jones Industrial Average 1925–1955

Depression Era Unemployment Statistics

Year	Population	Labor Force	Unemployed	Percentage of Labor Force
1929	88,010,000	49,440,000	1,550,000	3.14
1930	89,550,000	50,080,000	4,340,000	8.67
1931	90,710,000	50,680,000	8,020,000	15.82
1932	91,810,000	51,250,000	12,060,000	23.53
1933	92,950,000	51,840,000	12,830,000	24.75
1934	94,190,000	52,490,000	11,340,000	21.60
1935	95,460,000	53,140,000	10,610,000	19.97
1936	96,700,000	53,740,000	9,030,000	16.80
1937	97,870,000	54,320,000	7,700,000	14.18
1938	99,120,000	54,950,000	10,390,000	18.91
1939	100,360,000	55,600,000	9,480,000	17.05
1940	101,560,000	56,180,000	8,120,000	14.45
1941	102,700,000	57,530,000	5,560,000	9.66

U.S. Unemployment Statistics 1929–1941 Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1957 (Washington, D.C., 1960), p.706.

An example of a "Hooverville" located alongside the Willamette River in Portland, Oregon, ca.1932. Courtesy of the Library of Congress 8b27937u.

The 1932 presidential election was a cry for help from a desperate nation that saw the policies of the Hoover administration as completely ineffective. Hoover strongly believed that government intervention in private industry was not the solution and that given sufficient time the free enterprise system would right itself. Photo courtesy of: www.fineartamerica.com.

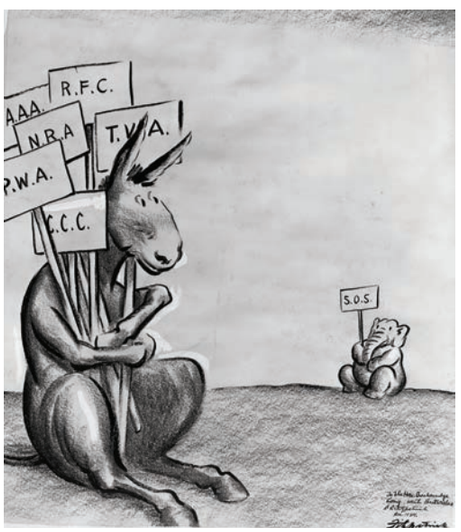
HOOVER'S IDEAS WEREN'T WORKING

Without question, the Great Depression was a defining moment for the way Americans saw the federal government in their daily lives. Following a decade of Republican-dominated policies focused upon the opportunities of private enterprise, the Herbert Hoover administration policies of the late 1920s simply could not tackle the immense problems facing the nation. Hoover believed that the country's health (and its recovery) was predicated on personal initiative rather than government handouts; he despised excessive government intervention into the private lives of Americans. He seemed stunned by the crash of '29 and was slow to take steps at the federal level to alleviate suffering and stimulate economic development. In my opinion, Hoover doesn't deserve all the blame for inaction, but by 1931 he still clung to the belief that the worst of the slide was over. His view was wrong. Even on Black Tuesday he tried to shore up the nation when he is quoted as saying "the fundamental business of the country is production and distribution, and it is on a sound and prosperous basis."

Behind the public speeches, one has to believe that his advisors fleshed out programs that might have stimulated business if only he would have pushed them forward. Unfortunately, he encountered an unreceptive Congress when he proposed relief programs. He did however, increase federal spending for public works projects to an all-time high. These included hiring labor to construct dams, trails, resort buildings, and roads; but the bureaucracy of execution stymied most of the programs He signed an executive order blocking migrant farm workers from entering the United States from Mexico. Unfortunately, these programs and policies had limited impact on the economic slide. [7] Something different had to be done. A major change in the American political scene was on the horizon.

ROOSEVELT ARRIVES ON THE SCENE

Onto the national scene came a young man from upstate New York by the name of Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882–1945). Since FDR, and his background, played a pivotal role in the country's recovery efforts and the development of our focus, the CCC, it seems appropriate to give a brief biography of the man up until the 1932 election here.



Roosevelt campaigned on fixing the badly depleted agricultural and timber resources by deploying a massive number of America's youth toward fixing two problems simultaneously: the country's exhausted natural resources and a hungry population. He believed that government was the temporary solution. Since Americans were disgusted with taking free "handouts" that crippled the psychological character of the nation, this new approach seemed to sit well with the electorate. Left photo courtesy of the FDR Library—Basil O'Connor 1932. The right photo also courtesy of FDR Library—acd 2a08707.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was born on January 30, 1882, into a wealthy family. The Roosevelts had been prominent Americans for several generations, having made their fortune in real estate and trade. Franklin was the only child of James Roosevelt and Sara Ann Delano Roosevelt. The family lived at Springwood, their estate in the New York state's Hudson River Valley. While growing up, Franklin Roosevelt was surrounded by privilege and a sense of self-importance. He was educated by tutors and governesses until age 14, and the entire household revolved around him, with his mother being the dominant figure in his life, even into adulthood. His upbringing was so unlike the common people who he would later champion.

In 1896, Franklin Roosevelt attended Groton School for boys, a prestigious Episcopal preparatory school in Massachusetts. The experience was a difficult one for him, as he did not fit in with the other students. Groton men excelled in athletics and Roosevelt did not. He strived to please the adults and took to heart the teachings of Groton's headmaster, Endicott Peabody, who urged students to help the less fortunate through public service.

After graduating from Groton in 1900, Franklin Roosevelt entered Harvard University, determined to make something of himself. Though only a C student, he was a member of the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity, editor of the Harvard Crimson newspaper, and received his degree in only three years. However, the general consensus was that he was underwhelming and average. During his last year at Harvard, he became engaged to Eleanor Roosevelt, his fifth cousin and the niece of Franklin's idol, Theodore Roosevelt. They married on March 17, 1905.

Franklin studied law at Columbia University Law School and passed the bar exam in 1907, though he didn't receive a degree. For the next three years, he practiced corporate law in New York, living the typical upper-class life. But he found law practice boring and restrictive. He set his sights on greater accomplishments.

In 1910, at age 28, Roosevelt was invited to run for the New York state senate. Breaking from family tradition, he ran as a Democrat in a district that had voted Republican for the previous 32 years. He campaigned hard and won the election with the help of his name and a Democratic landslide. Once a state senator, however, Roosevelt opposed elements of the Democratic political machine in New York. This won him the ire of party leaders, but gained him national notoriety and valuable experience in political tactics and intrigue.

During this time, he formed an alliance with Louis Howe, a young reporter with the *New York Herald* newspaper who would shape his political career for the next 25 years. Mr. Howe ran Roosevelt's bid for a seat in the New York Senate twice and was a close advisor to Roosevelt when Roosevelt was Secretary of the Navy. He managed Roosevelt's unsuccessful bid for vice president in the 1920 presidential race, but successfully managed Roosevelt's bid for governor of New York. Howe spent four years preparing Roosevelt for his winning 1932 Presidential bid.

Following his reelection to the New York Senate in 1912, Roosevelt served as chair of the agricultural committee, passing farm and labor bills and social welfare programs. But his service there was short-lived; during the 1912 National Democratic Convention, Roosevelt had supported presidential candidate Woodrow Wilson and was rewarded in 1913 with an appointment as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, the same job his idol and fifth cousin, Theodore Roosevelt, had used to catapult himself to the presidency. Franklin was an energetic and efficient administrator. He specialized in business operations, working with Congress to get budgets approved and systems modernized, and he founded the U.S. Naval Reserve. But he was restless in the position as "second chair" to his boss, Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels, who was less enthusiastic about supporting a large and efficient naval force.

In 1914, Roosevelt, decided to run for the U.S. Senate seat for New York. The proposition was doomed from the start, as he lacked White House support. President Wilson needed the Democratic political machine to get his social

reforms passed and ensure his reelection. So he could not support Roosevelt, who had made too many political enemies among New York Democrats. Roosevelt was soundly defeated in the primary election and learned a valuable lesson that national stature could not defeat a well-organized local political organization.

In politics FDR was finding personal success if not professional often being seen at the most prominent parties and considered by women to be a very attractive man. In 1914, he developed a relationship with Lucy Mercer, Eleanor Roosevelt's social secretary, which evolved into a love affair. In 1918, Eleanor discovered the affair and gave Franklin an ultimatum to stop seeing Lucy or she would file for divorce. He agreed, but continued to secretly see Mercer over the years.

With his political career again on the upswing, Franklin D. Roosevelt accepted the nomination for vice president—as James M. Cox's running mate—at the 1920 Democratic Convention. The pair was soundly defeated by Republican Warren G. Harding in the general election, but the experience gave Roosevelt national exposure.

At age 39, while vacationing at Campobello Island, New Brunswick, Canada, he was diagnosed with polio. At first, he refused to accept that he was permanently paralyzed. He tried numerous therapies and even bought the Warm Springs resort in Georgia seeking a cure. Despite his efforts, he never regained the use of his legs. He later established a foundation at Warm Springs to help others, and instituted the March of Dimes program that eventually funded an effective polio vaccine.

For a time, Franklin Roosevelt was resigned to being a victim of polio, believing his political career was over. But Eleanor Roosevelt and Louis Howe encouraged him to continue. Over the next several years, Roosevelt worked to improve his physical and political image. He taught himself to walk short distances in his braces and was careful not to be seen in public using his wheelchair. He also began to repair his relationship with New York's Democratic political machine. Roosevelt appeared at the 1924 and 1928 Democratic National Conventions to nominate New York governor Al Smith for president, which increased his national exposure.

Smith urged Franklin Roosevelt to run for governor of New York in 1928. Roosevelt was narrowly elected, and the victory gave him confidence that his political star was rising. As governor, he believed in progressive government and instituted a number of new social programs at the state level. By 1930, Republicans were being blamed for the Great Depression and Franklin Roosevelt sensed an opportunity. He began his run for the presidency, calling for government intervention in the economy to provide relief, recovery, and reform. His upbeat, positive approach and personal charm helped him defeat Republican incumbent Herbert Hoover in November 1932.[8]

FDR'S EARLY CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES

Roosevelt also had a background in conservation—of forest and croplands. When he took over managing the family estate from his mother in 1910, he immediately recognized the impact of the previous two centuries of almost constant farming on his family's property without regard to sustainability. Regardless of Roosevelt's best efforts, the land refused to yield more than half of what it had produced in prior years. He seemed to sense that something was grossly out of place. He also recognized the consequences of overharvesting trees in the family's forest without proper reforestation techniques.[6] He began to grasp the concept of sustained production of both farm and forest and the need to husband the land. It was here at a young age that Roosevelt began to formulate his beliefs in conservation of natural resources and how they were connected to the prosperity of the land's inhabitants.

In a speech Roosevelt delivered before the Troy, New York People's Forum on March 12, 1912, one begins to see his conservation philosophy taking shape:

> (In referring to an example in China) *"... Every man 500 years ago did as he pleased with his own property. He cut the trees without affording a chance for reproduction and he thereby parched the ground, dried up the streams and ruined the valley and the sad part of it is that there are today men of the State (New York) who for the sake of lining their pockets during their own lifetime are willing to cause the same devastation that happened in China.*
>
> *They care not what happens after they are gone and I will go even further and say that they care not what happens even to their neighbors, to the community as a whole, during their own lifetime. The opponents of conservation, who, after all, are merely opponents of the liberty of the community, will argue that even though they do exhaust all the natural resources, the inventiveness of man and the progress of civilization will supply a substitute when the crisis comes. When the crisis came on that prosperous province of China the progress of civilization and the inventiveness of man did not find a substitute. Why will we assume that we can do it when the Chinese failed?*
>
> *It is the same way with all of our other natural resources in addition to forests. Why, let me ask, are so many of the farms in the State of New York abandoned. The*

Roosevelt campaigned across the nation with the main theme of putting people to work on the government's payroll doing meaningful work in conserving the nation's natural resources. He exclaimed this program was a wise use of the country's financial and human capital. This proposition generally circumvented the public perception that those men and women doing this work would be on the public relief roles; in fact, they would be paid a minimum wage for doing the work. Roosevelt gave little details as to how this program would be structured and if or how the army might or might not be involved, but this idea became part of what he called the "New Deal."[11] Photo courtesy of the FDR Library Basil O"Connor March 1933.

answer is easy. Their owners 50 or 100 years ago took from the soil without returning any equivalent to the soil. In other words they got something for nothing. Their land was rich and the work was easy. They prospered for a while until the deluge came and when it came they discovered that their lands would not produce. They had taken the richness away and did not pay for it with fertilizers and other methods of soil regeneration.

To-day the people in the cities and the people on the farms are suffering because these early farmers gave no thought to the liberty of the community. To have suggested to a New York State farmer one hundred years ago that the government would compel him to put so much lime or so much fertilizer on every acre he cultivated would have been impossibility. He would have stared and muttered something about taking care of his own land in his own way.

Yet there are many thinking people in the State to-day who believe that the time is not far distant when the government of the State will rightly and of necessity compel every cultivator of land to pay back to that land some quid pro quo.

I have taken the conservation of our natural resources as the first lesson that points to the necessity for seeking community freedom, because I believe it to be the most important of all our lessons. Five hundred years ago the peasants of Europe, our ancestors, were not giving much thought to us who are here to-day. But I think a good many people in the audience have often considered what kind of a country we today are fashioning to hand down to our descendants."

The above excerpt is from a fourteen-page text of which three pages are in Roosevelt's hand and the rest is typed.[9] One could easily argue that with this speech and the leadership he provided over the ensuing years, he created a new era of widespread public awareness of the natural environment and the need to protect it.

THE 1932 ELECTION AND SEEDS OF THE CCC

Americans needed someone to blame for their sorry state, and right or wrong, President Hoover became the political scapegoat. As the Depression gained momentum it was not uncommon to see shantytowns crop up across America. The "houses in these towns", if one could stretch one's imagination to call them that, were simply shelters made out of anything handy. These were commonly referred to as "Hooverville's" or "Hoover Villas".

Hoover's 1932 campaign promised to end poverty in America and "put a chicken in every pot," yet his policies did little to relieve the suffering following the crash. Probably one of Hoover's Achilles heels was his passage of the Revenue Act of 1932, which among other things raised the flat income tax rate across the board for all citizens—with the greatest tax increase on the wealthiest from 8 percent to 63 percent. Hoover's assured confidence in the resilience of the open market system was misplaced and as the years of his presidency, and the Depression, stretched on with little relief, people grew disillusioned. By the 1932 election campaign, Hoover's conservative stance stood in direct opposition to the needs and desires of the majority of the American people.

FDR's presidential campaign, on the other hand, promised public works programs that would employ people doing work necessary for the nation. As governor of New York he had instituted programs that put unemployed young men to work planting trees, blazing fire roads, and employing soil conservation practices throughout the state. Earlier in his political career, he had served as chairman of the Committee on Forest, Fish, and Game in the New York Legislature. Roosevelt strongly believed that the natural resources across the country were in need of repair, and he saw the restoration of the land as intimately tied to restoring the livelihood of the nation. FDR was clear in his belief that conservation of natural resources was a fundamental part of the nation's future and its economic recovery.

The idea of putting young men to work doing conservation work was not a new one; states, including California, Washington, Virginia, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Indiana were hiring or planning for the employment of young men to do conservation work. The State of California, for instance, by 1932, had established 25 camps of 200 men each to work in forest and watershed improvement by falling snags, clearing roadsides, constructing firebreaks and controlling insect outbreaks. Then-Governor, Gifford Pinchot, of Pennsylvania set up labor camps for young men to work on road construction and conservation work.[10] In fact, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Austria and the German Republic all had forest labor camps already up and going. In the dying days of the Hoover Administration, Congress proposed a chain of camps under Army supervision to do public service work.

Lost to the dusty archives in the Library of Congress is a little known fact that a Republican Senator, James Couzens, from the state of Michigan, in 1932 introduced a bill authorizing the army to house, feed, and clothe 300,000 unemployed single men on its military bases. The bill was shelved, as then Secretary of War Patrick Hurley opposed the program. There was also a nationwide protest to the idea, as the country was far to the left of military rule, and the idea was dropped.

Roosevelt projected confidence during the campaign and a weary public looking for a strong new leader decided to give him a chance. He was in the right place at the right time with the right message. The race for the Presidency in 1932 was a landslide victory for Roosevelt. He carried all states except six, and those were small states in the Northeast.

"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of the President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Roosevelt took the oath of office on March 4, 1933, telling his weary fellow Americans during his inaugural address:

"Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

He also said:

"I shall ask the Congress for the one remaining instrument to meet the crisis—broad administrative Executive power to wage a war against the emergence as great as the power that would be given to me if we were in fact invaded by a foreign foe." (referring to the Great Depression).

Courtesy of the Library of Congress

On April 1, 1933, the first CCC camp was set up within the boundaries of the George Washington National Forest–designation NF–1 Camp Roosevelt. Photo Courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration FDR Library.

PART II
SETTING UP THE CCC NATIONALLY

ROOSEVELT'S FIRST 100 DAYS

Today, the national press corps measures the probable success of a new president by what he or she can get done during the first 100 days after taking office. Such was the case with FDR in 1933. Since the new president ran on the campaign of righting the national ship by putting young men to work "fixing" the nation's natural resources, now that he was president, the question was: how would his promises turn into action? And how quickly could he do it?

The country was in its fourth year of economic depression when he took the oath of office on March 4, 1933. As mentioned, Roosevelt had gained experience in matching the youth of his state with conservation efforts in New York—albeit that was but a small subset of what the nation needed. He also had personal experience with those conservation projects on his family's estate, Springwood, at Hyde Park, New York. Further, FDR was a great admirer of the conservation efforts espoused by his fifth cousin, Theodore Roosevelt, and TR's first Chief Forester of the United States Forest Service—Gifford Pinchot. All this and the influence of a man by the name of Louis Howe helped lead the new president on a course of action.

Things seemed ripe for a new direction in America. Congress also seemed ready to work with the president in hopes of returning the country to some semblance of prosperity. This attitude of cooperation helped Roosevelt to generate a great number of relief programs in the first one hundred days of his administration—the Agricultural Adjustment Act [a], the Farm Credit Act [b], the National Industrial Recovery Act [c], the Public Works Administration [d], the Emergency Conservation Work Act [e], the Social Security Act, and the Tennessee Valley Authority, to name a few.

[a] The Agricultural Adjustment Act was designed to restore parity prices for "basic agricultural commodities" initially defined as wheat, cotton, corn, hogs, rice, tobacco, and milk reducing supplies. Benefit payments would compensate participating farmers who agreed to curb acreage or kill excess livestock.

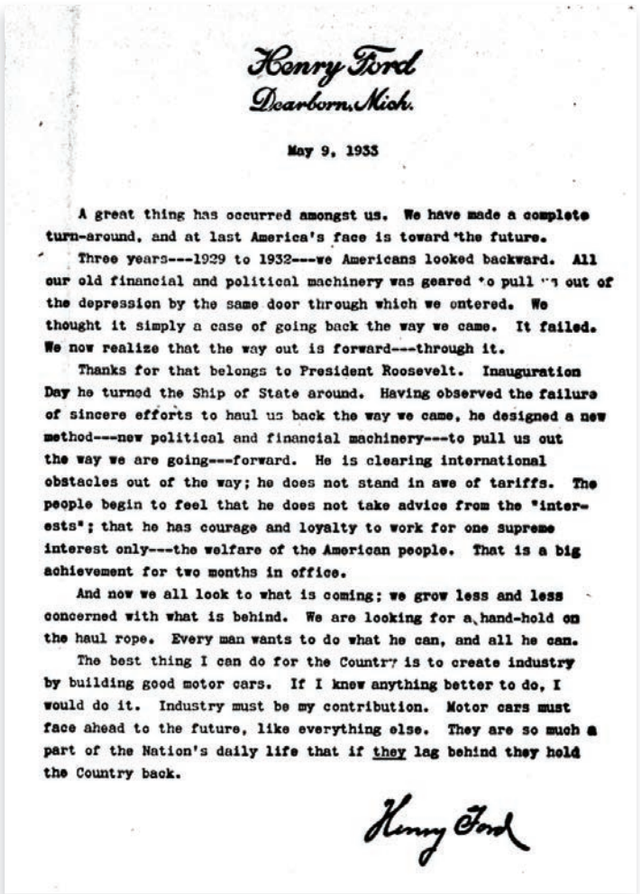
[b] The Farm Credit Act established the Farm Credit System (FCS) as a group of cooperative lending institutions to provide short-, intermediate-, and long-term loans for agricultural purposes.

[c] The goal of the National Industrial Recovery Act was to eliminate "cut-throat competition" by bringing industry, labor, and government together to create codes of "fair practices" and set prices. The NIRA was created by 1933, Originally called the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, it was the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) and allowed industries to get together and write "codes of fair competition." The codes were intended to reduce "destructive competition" and to help workers by setting minimum wages and maximum weekly hours, as well as minimum prices at which products could be sold. The NIRA also had a two-year renewal charter and was set to expire in June 1935 if not renewed. In 1935, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously declared that the NIRA law was unconstitutional.

[d] The Public Works Administration (PWA) was a large-scale public works construction agency in the United States headed by Secretary of the Interior. It was created by the National Industrial Recovery Act in June 1933. It built large-scale public works such as dams, bridges, hospitals, and schools. Its goals were to spend $3.3 billion in the first year, and $6 billion in all, to provide employment, stabilize purchasing power, and help revive the economy. Most of the spending came in two waves in 1933, and in 1939; it shut down in 1941. (NOTE: This is not to be confused with the Works Progress Administration of 1935—later called the Works Projects Administration in 1939—WPA. At its peak in 1938, it provided paid jobs for three million unemployed men and women, as well as youth in a separate division, the National Youth Administration. Headed by Harry Hopkins, the WPA also provided jobs and income to the unemployed during the Great Depression in the United States. Between 1935 and 1943, the WPA provided almost eight million jobs.)

[e] The Emergency Conservation Work Act was the first major work relief act passed as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs. It was sometimes referred to as the Reforestation Relief Act, the legislation provided for the creation of a government agency that would put unemployed people to work developing conservation infrastructure on lands owned by the federal, state, and local governments. (This was the prelude to the Civilian Conservation Corps program.)

One might call the New Deal a cooking pot of alphabet soup policies—and they all seemed to get tagged with acronyms—WPA, NRA, and of course the 3-C's. Roosevelt knew he had to get America back work and he needed to get millions of unemployed young men off the streets—especially in the larger metropolitan areas, if not for simple economic reasons, then for psychological reasons as well. Young men in the cities were starting to band together in order to survive, and trouble was brewing in the streets of America.[12]



Henry Ford
Dearborn, Mich.

May 9, 1933

A great thing has occurred amongst us. We have made a complete turn-around, and at last America's face is toward the future.

Three years---1929 to 1932---we Americans looked backward. All our old financial and political machinery was geared to pull us out of the depression by the same door through which we entered. We thought it simply a case of going back the way we came. It failed. We now realize that the way out is forward---through it.

Thanks for that belongs to President Roosevelt. Inauguration Day he turned the Ship of State around. Having observed the failure of sincere efforts to haul us back the way we came, he designed a new method---new political and financial machinery---to pull us out the way we are going---forward. He is clearing international obstacles out of the way; he does not stand in awe of tariffs. The people begin to feel that he does not take advice from the "interests"; that he has courage and loyalty to work for one supreme interest only---the welfare of the American people. That is a big achievement for two months in office.

And now we all look to what is coming; we grow less and less concerned with what is behind. We are looking for a hand-hold on the haul rope. Every man wants to do what he can, and all he can.

The best thing I can do for the Country is to create industry by building good motor cars. If I knew anything better to do, I would do it. Industry must be my contribution. Motor cars must face ahead to the future, like everything else. They are so much a part of the Nation's daily life that if they lag behind they hold the Country back.

Henry Ford

In May 1933, Henry Ford commended Roosevelt for his "courage and loyalty to work for one supreme interest only—the welfare of the American people."

Some of America's industrial leaders were cautious about the government's intrusion into work that could be performed by the private sector, but others began supporting Roosevelt's New Deal, and were quite optimistic about the number of his proposed government programs. The above letter from Henry Ford is such an example:[13]

Roosevelt went right to work on Congress and convinced them in very short order that such a conservation program would not interfere with normal employment as the men targeted for this work were already unemployed. If the Congress would go along with him, he claimed to be able to have 250,000 young men employed by the coming summer! In working with Congress, the president asked for no new funds; apparently there were sufficient unrestricted funds available to him to run the program for several months.[14] He summed up the Emergency Conservation Work proposal to Congress in the following manner:

"...Our greatest primary task is to put people to work. This is no unsolvable problem, if we face it wisely and courageously. It can be accomplished in part by direct recruiting by the Government itself, treating the task as we would treat the emergency of a war, but at the same time, through the employment, accomplishing greatly needed projects to stimulate and reorganize the use of our natural resources..."[15]

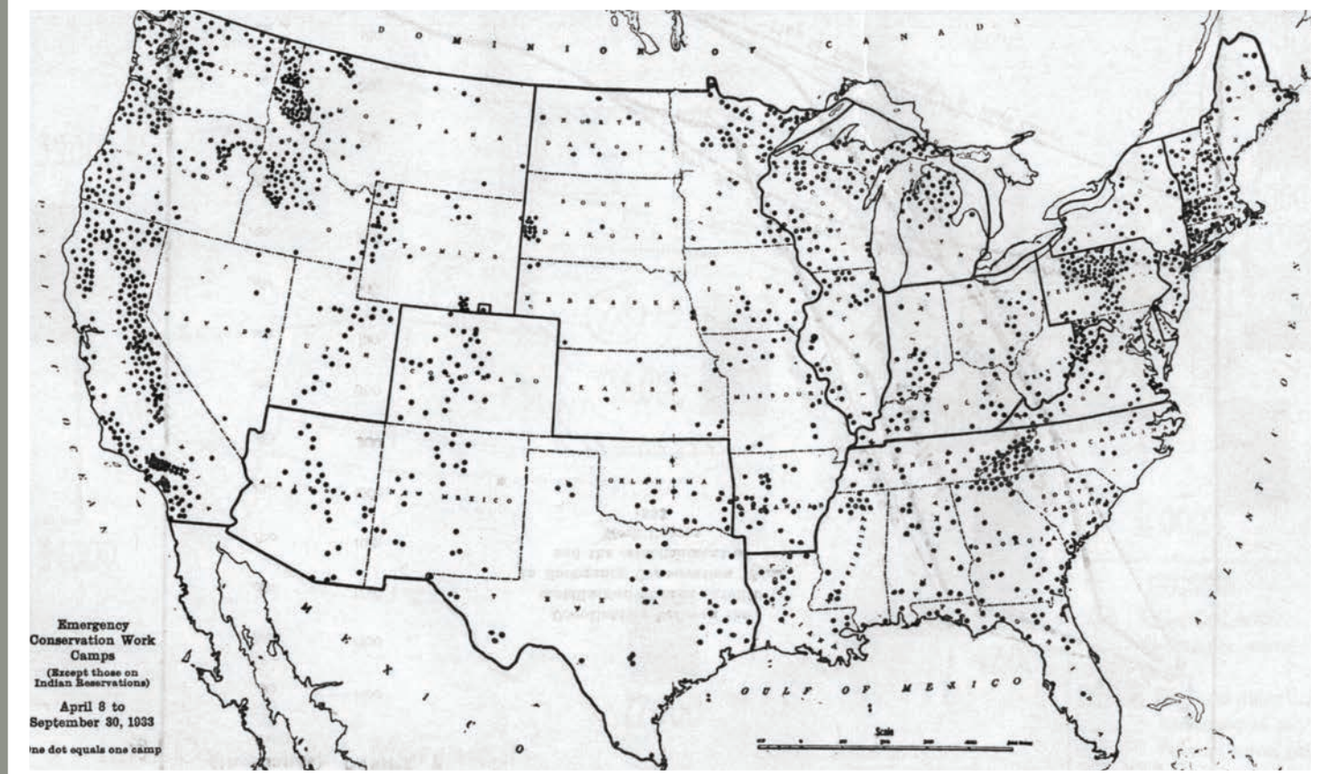
"...This enterprise is an established part of our national policy. It will conserve our precious natural resources. It will pay dividends to the present and future generations. It will make improvements in National and State domains which have been largely forgotten in the past few years of industrial development.

More important, however, than the material gains will be the moral and spiritual value of such work. The overwhelming majority of unemployed Americans, who are now walking the streets and receiving private or public relief, would infinitely prefer to work. We can take a vast army of these unemployed out into healthful surroundings. We can eliminate to some extent at least the threat that enforced idleness brings to spiritual and moral stability. It is not a panacea for all the unemployment but it is an essential step in this emergency. I ask its adoption..."[16]

THE EMERGENCY CONSERVATION WORK ACT: FROM CONSUMPTION TO CONSERVATION

The Emergency Conservation Work Act created the backbone for what would become known as the Civilian Conservation Corps. The bill supporting the act was introduced on March 21, 1933 (a mere 17 days after FDR was sworn into office) and passed both houses of congress by March 31, 1933. Senate Bill S-598 stipulated its purpose as "... relieving the acute condition of widespread distress of unemployment now existing in the United States and in order to provide for the restoration of the country's depleted natural resources and the advancement of an orderly program of useful public work..." Newsmen across the nation began calling the program "Roosevelt's Tree Army."

As the president signed the bill, he commented that he would like to see the CCC program begin in two weeks—the middle of April, 1933! Congress gave Roosevelt a free hand in the execution of the plan—something that normally does not happen except in times of war. It would be the



The above map shows the distribution of the Emergency Conservation Work Act Camps (precursor of CCC camps) as shown in the First Report of the Director of Emergency Conservation Work for Period 1 from April 5, 1933 to September 30, 1933. Each small dot represented one camp.

On August 12, 1933, President Roosevelt, along with some of the CCC Advisory Council visited the first camp built for the Park Service at Bay Meadows, Shenandoah National Park, Virginia. It was called Camp Fechner. Note the enrollees are in their "dress uniforms." Seated L to R: Army liaison, Major General Paul B. Malone; Louis Howe, the president's personal secretary; Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes; CCC Director Robert Fechner; Roosevelt; Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace; and Assistant Agriculture Secretary Rexford Tugwell. Photo courtesy of Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library3b39773u.

fastest mobilization of men—including the recruitment for WW I—in U.S. history. Quotas of CCC enrollees were established based upon state population statistics. By June 6, more than 80,000 men had been shipped to 400 camps across the country, while another 155,000 were in the "conditioning camps" getting ready for deployment to work camps. The latter were being transferred to actual CCC camps at a rate of 9,000 per day. [11, 17, 18]

Even the president's wife, Eleanor, got into the drive to turn the country's consumption-based attitude into a conservation one in an article she wrote for the *Woman's Home Companion* in July 1935:[19]

"... A wood lot for every farm, a forest for every village is the slogan some of our statesmen would gladly see adopted by the people of this country, but a great many people cannot understand why there is so much insistence on this idea...

...If we want to keep our water supply, prevent soil erosion, and still have fertile land to cultivate, we shall have to reforest much of the land which we have denuded. Every village will have to inculcate into its children a lot of the ancient tree worship in order that we may be wise husbandmen of one of the greatest assets of the future prosperity of our nation..."

While written a couple of years after the beginning of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the following "letter to the editor" by one of the enrollees in the CCC Camp at Morganfield, Kentucky expresses his thoughts about the opportunities to improve the local environment:[20]

"Many opportunities are offered the youth in the CCC that may be overlooked. Many enrollees are asking themselves those very questions: 'How can I improve my station in life?' or 'How can I make more than thirty bucks a month?' The answer is 'use your spare time for educating yourself.'

There are many books in the camp library that will open the road to a higher plane of living. One of those books is Little Waters. This book is a study of head water streams and other little waters, their use and relation to the land. 'Little Waters' is very interesting to read and after reading it you will see the reason for the work you are doing at this camp. You will see an opportunity to go out from the CCC and spread the teachings of Conservation. You will vision a land abundant with wildlife, fish and water fowl in all the streams and lakes, pheasants, turkey, grouse and deer once more roaming in the forests as your grandfathers saw them on this land. Your vision will include fertile hills and valleys where an acre of land will produce three times the grain it now does with less labor. Our picture of a farm home in the future will include a reservoir nearby with running water piped to the house and barn, electric lights all through the house and outbuildings, made possible by cheap water power stored in the reservoir.

This vision or dream is gradually coming true. The sooner every man, woman and child learn the story of 'Little Waters' the quicker this transition will take place.

Every enrollee at Camp Morgan is helping bring about this change for a better living. Each foot of terrace Constructed and every tree that is planted is helping to conserve water and soil and add a link in the great chain of Conservation

Read 'Little Waters,' learn more about field work and attend the classes in Soil Conservation and your eyes will open to an opportunity to earn more than thirty bucks a month."

JOB ONE: NOT JUST TREES, BUT DROUGHT CONTROL

From a forest conservation perspective, and from the nickname given to the CCC program—"Roosevelt's Tree Army"—one might conclude that the primary focus of the program was to deal with the overharvesting of forests nationwide, and more specifically the protection of the western forests from fire and insects. But the president was also keenly aware of the pressing need to deal with the erosion and other soil- and water-related issues in the mid-western region of the country—and he planned to deploy the CCC program to those regions too. One report from the time period claimed there was 84 million acres of good agricultural land dependent upon man-made drainage systems. In 1934, forty-six 3-C camps were assigned to this work under the direction of the U.S. Bureau of Agricultural Engineering.[21]

In an effort to provide additional financial relief to the drought-stricken states, the director of the CCC authorized the enlistment 50,000 new recruits that would be chosen exclusively from those states impacted by the drought. In that way, specific work projects would be performed by the "tree army" boys from the local area, and money from their wages would flow back to their home states, which were hardest hit. An additional $12 million was turned over to the Corps in order to finance the drought relief program.

Dust storm in Rolla Kansas May 6, 1935. Photo courtesy of FDR Library 48-22 3719(33). Inset: Dust storm Baca County, Colorado on Easter Sunday 1935. Photo courtesy of FDR Library 92-46.

This amount was supposed to maintain the enrollees for approximately three months —primarily for the driest months in the late summer and fall of 1934.[22]

From a press release issued on May 8, 1935 by the CCC director, one begins to grasp the enormity of the drought problem:

"State and county allocations of 505 Civilian Conservation Corps camps assigned to the Soil Erosion Service for use in the national campaign against soil erosion by wind and rain were announced.

About one-fourth of the 505 anti-erosion camps will be located in the seven high plain states most severely hit by recurrent dust storms. The remainder will be distributed throughout the country in areas where soil impoverishment due to the erosion action of rain water is a major agricultural problem.

In the acute wind erosion belt, which includes all of portions of North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado, Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico, the Service will supervise a total of 123 camps, most of which will be used to assist farmers in combating the dust storm problems. These camps will be engaged in the installation of terraces, dams and other moisture conservation devices, the planting of cover crops to anchor the soil against blowing and planting of trees and shrubs wherever feasible to serve as wind breaks. With the camps now at our disposal, we feel that long strides can be taken in curbing the destructive force which is costing farmers of this country $400,000,000 annually in lost productivity of the soil."[23]

The extent of the drought control and soil erosion effort was further confirmed by the following memorandum from Roosevelt to the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture as well as the Director of Emergency Conservation, Robert Fechner.

WASHINGTON, May 3, 1933

MEMORANDUM . . . I think it very important to put some camps into the prairie states. Senators and Congressman from Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana,

ROBERT FECHNER: THE FACE OF THE CCC

Robert Fechner (1876–1939) was not well educated, at least in the traditional sense. He quit school at the age of 16 to work in a railroad machine shop for a while, then wandered off to Mexico and Central and South America, working as an itinerant machinist. He was elected to the general executive board of the International Association of Machinists Union in 1925 and sandwiched in a year's schooling at Georgia Tech in Atlanta. He was fond of saying that his clerks at the CCC were better educated than he was. Fechner was not well known in conservation circles prior to the CCC, but once he took over the job as director, he quickly gained the respect of all leadership factions of the country.

Seen here is Robert Fechner, the director of the Civilian Conservation Corps presenting the enrollment papers to the first CCC enrollee, Mr. Elbert Jackson Lester, of East Radford, Virginia. Mr. Lester was assigned to Camp Roosevelt in Virginia. From left to right, Fechner, Fred Morrell, Assistant Chief of Emergency Conservation Work for the Department of Agriculture, Lester, and on the right, Conrad Worth, Assistant Director of National Park Service. Robert Fechner led the CCC from its inception in 1933 until his death in 1939. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress #22292.

Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Texas say that in most of these States the State government has flood control or soil erosion projects already engineered and capable of being started at once.

I wish you would make an effort to get some camps started on this work.

Will you let me know what you can do? [a]

F.D.R. [9]

[a] *This refers to an undated letter from some of the Senators and Representatives of the states named (and also Ohio), asking that water conservation projects be established in their areas as a necessary preliminary to forestation programs. Fechner replied May 6, 1933 (OF 268), that a definite plan had already been worked out for the state of Iowa and that as soon as the governors of the other states agreed to certain conditions he would cooperate with the state authorities in locating the work camps. The location of all work camps and the character of the work to be done by them had to be approved by Fechner and the president before the camps were set up (memoranda by Fechner, April 17 and 18, 1933, OF 268). Through Fechner and the departmental representatives, Roosevelt kept in touch not only with major policy and administrative matters but also with details of camp conditions, costs, health of the men, the numbers enrolled in the various camps, and personnel.*

EARLY CRITICS OF THE CCC

The formation of the 3-Cs was not without critics. As mentioned earlier, industrial leaders were split on how the program might affect their businesses, and labor was slow to come on board for fear that the CCC would begin to take private-sector jobs away from their members. Others feared the education programs being developed by the Corps were an effort by the federal government to nationalize the public school system.

There were also people on the "right" who opposed the corps mainly on the basis that they believed it was too easy for the Communist Party to infiltrate groups of young, working class men. They thought the aggregation of 200 young men in a confined environment with limited access to real "news" was a perfect setting for indoctrination with Communist principles. There were a couple of incidents during the 1930s where there *were* reports of communists actually getting into these camps trying to convert a lot of these young men to their ideals. Thus, army personnel were told to be on the alert for communist activities in the camps,[25] and the annual and semi-annual inspection reports conducted at each camp not only reviewed the camp functions, the quality of the camps, and the health of the men—they also reported on any subversive activities they observed or heard about.[26]

Other critics of the Corps came from the followers of the likes of John Muir, Aldo Leopold, and Bob Marshall.[26] They argued that the construction of so many campgrounds, picnic areas, hiking trails, and roads by millions of enrollees would destroy the primitive quality of the nation's forests. They were emphatic that comprehensive conservation must include wilderness protection along with developing public recreation access. Their demands for creating more wilderness protection by keeping the CCC out of certain areas helped set the stage after WWII for a new round of environmental advocacy, culminating in Congressional passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Areas singled out for inclusion in the act were those where the 3-Cs had not been allowed to enter.

A NEW EXPERIMENT: FORMALIZING AND ORGANIZING THE CCC

Roosevelt issued Executive Order 6101 on April 5, 1933, which established the CCC organization and appointed Robert Fechner, then vice president of the American Machinists Union, as its director, where he served until his death in 1939. The organization and administration of the Civilian Conservation Corps was a new experiment in an operation that coordinated multiple federal (and some state) agencies under one head (Robert Fechner) — that is one other than the President of the United States. The order indicated that the program was to be supervised jointly under Fechner's leadership by four government departments:

Labor, which recruited the young men;
War, which operated the camps;
Agriculture, which organized and managed the camp work projects;
Interior, which also organized and managed the camp work projects.

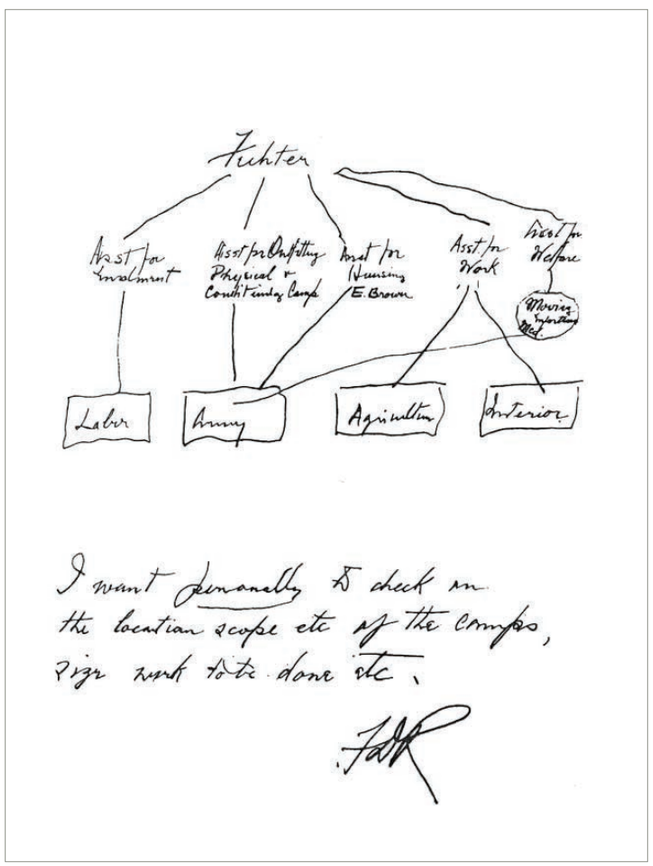
An Advisory Council was set up with representatives from each of these departments, along with a member each from the Office of Education and Veterans Administration.[27]

The president and his personal secretary Louis Howe met Fechner during WWI, when he represented his machinists' union in negotiations with then-Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt. Their friendship continued afterward and on Fechner's 57th birthday (March 22, 1933), he received a telephone call from Howe suggesting he make a quick trip to Washington to meet with the President. Fechner was tied up with union business and unaware that the CCC legislation had been introduced; he put off going to D.C. for a week. When Fechner finally did visit the White House, he saw the scribbled original chart outlining the CCC organization lying on the President's desk—with his own name written at the top. Although the novel plan involved military organization, the concept was based not upon conscription, but on voluntary enrollment.[28]

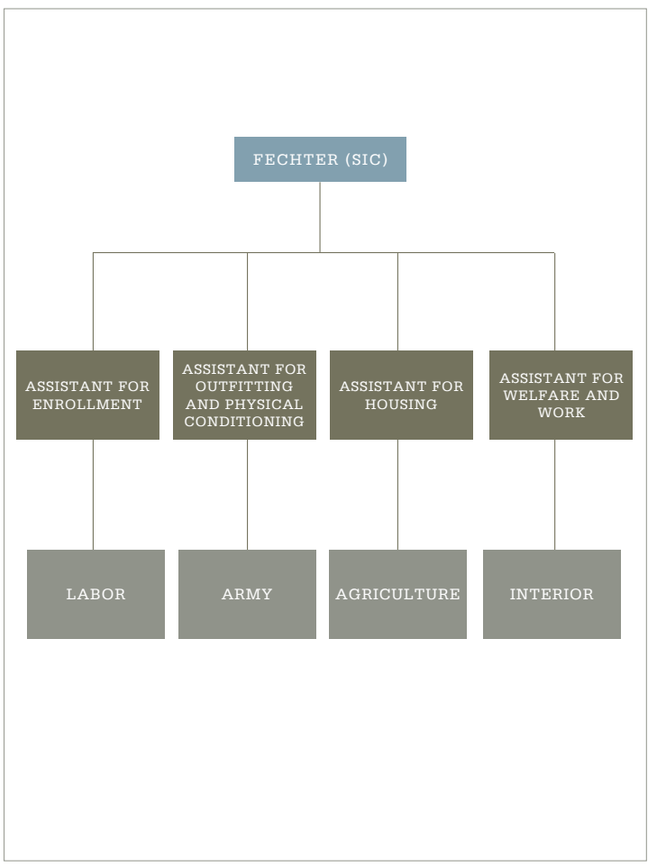
[a] The date of FDR's scribbling is approximate. Roosevelt may have sketched it at a White House conference held on April 3, 1933, at which a plan of enlisting the unemployed and of getting them to the camps was decided upon. (It should be noted that he misspelled Fechner's name at the top of the chart.) Those present at the meeting with Fechner were Horace Albright, director of the National Park Service; John D. Coffman, fire control expert for the Park Service; William G. Howard, of the New York State Conservation Department; Forester R. Y. Stuart; Assistant Forester C. M. Granger; Col. Duncan K. Major Jr., of the War Department; and W. Frank Persons, of the Labor Department (New York Times, April 4, 1933, p. 15).

"I want personally to check on the location, scope, etc. of the camps, size, work to be done etc."

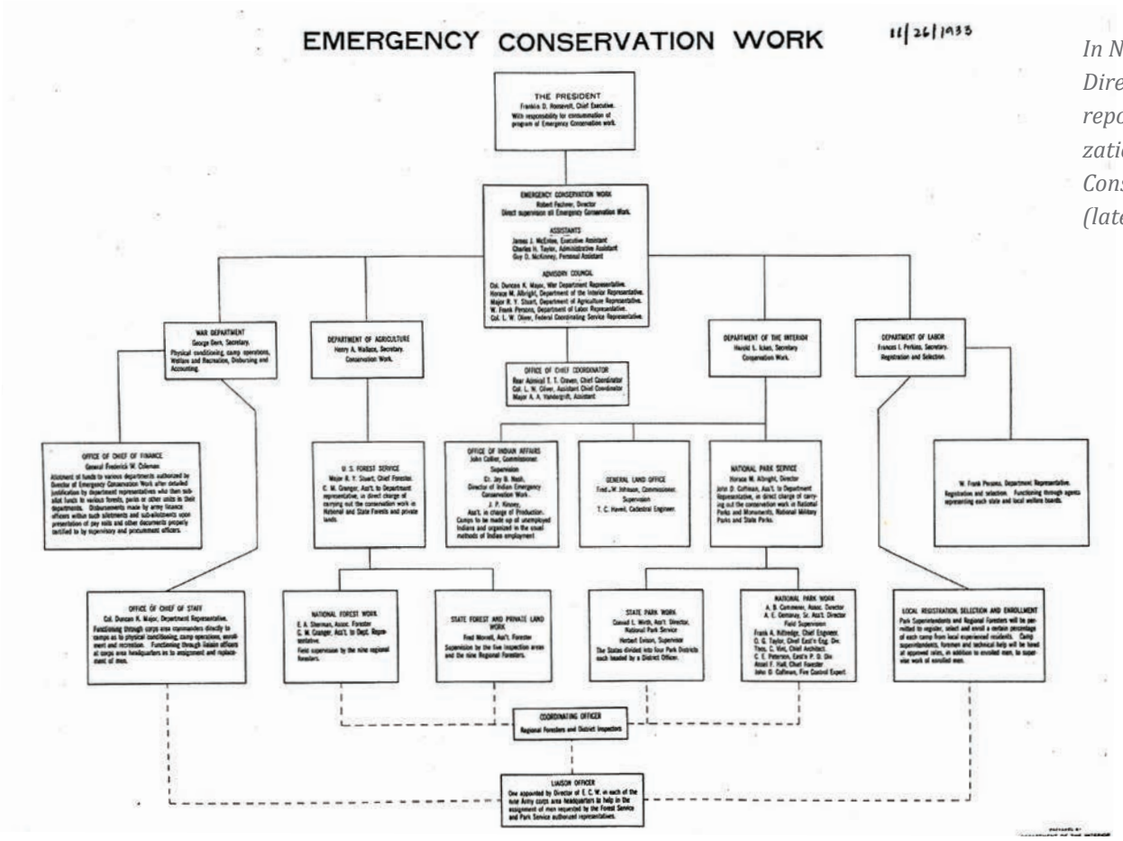
(Signed) FDR



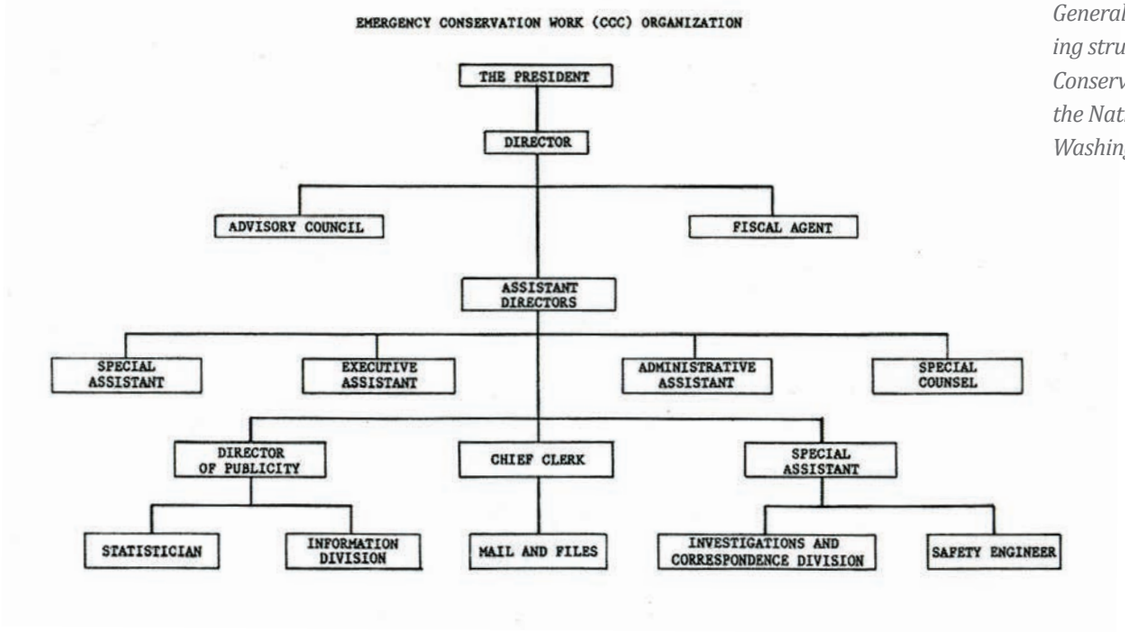
FDR's "scribbled" Emergency Conservation organizational chart, April 3, 1933.



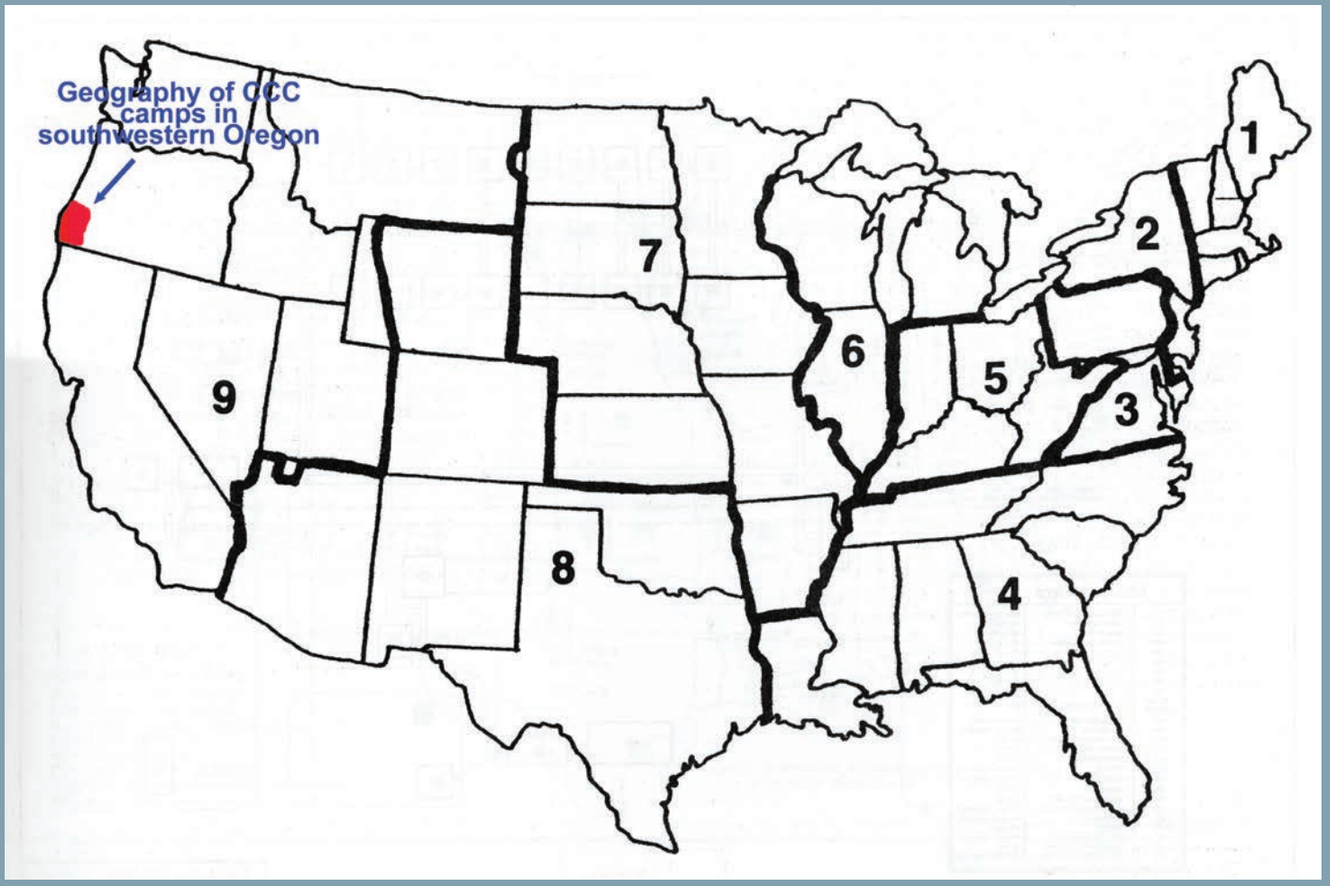
This is a translation of FDR's "scribbled" Emergency Conservation organizational chart, April 3, 1933.



In November of that same year, Director Fechner filled in the reporting boxes for the organization chart for the Emergency Conservation Work Program (later the CCC). [18, 30]



General summary of the reporting structure of the Emergency Conservation Work. Courtesy of the National Archives in Seattle, Washington.



Oregon fell within the Ninth Corps region—which also included California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Washington, and parts of Wyoming. The area shown in red on the map above is the approximate geographic area covered by this book. Map created by Alexander L. Lacy 1976; geographic dimension covered by this book added by the author.

NINE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CORPS AREAS

At the national level, the Civilian Conservation Corps was divided into nine major organizational areas, which corresponded to Army Corps of Engineers Districts:

Identification of the Nine Military/CCC Areas used during the administration of the CCC[31]

First Corps: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut
Second Corps: New Jersey, Delaware, And New York
Third Corps: Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and The District Of Columbia
Fourth Corps: North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana
Fifth Corps: Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana, and Kentucky
Sixth Corps: Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin
Seventh Corps: Kansas, Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Missouri
Eighth Corps: Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Wyoming (Excluding Yellowstone National Park)
Ninth Corps: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Nevada, California, and Yellowstone National Park

FDR's scrawled version of the organization seemed simple in concept, but functionally it had the makings of a bureaucratic nightmare. Roosevelt himself was said to have made light of any fears arising out of the structure. When questioned about the implementation of the program, the President casually said: "Oh, that doesn't matter; the Army and the Forestry Service will really run the show. The Secretary of Labor will select the men and make the rules and Fechner will go along and give everybody satisfaction and confidence!" And from all appearances, the president's comments proved right.[29]

Imagine if you will the difficulty that Fechner faced in not only trying to implement the program initiated by the president on a piece of scratch paper and essentially "dumped in his lap," he also had the personalities of his Advisory Council to hold in line—each wanting a leadership role in how this new organization would be run. In hindsight, Fechner was the perfect choice to run the CCC: he was a natural at organizing, and at working with and leading men from a wide variety of backgrounds.

DIVVYING UP THE AUTHORITY

Fechner was tough minded and established a clear division of authority for the federal agencies as follows:

A. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor was charged with overseeing the selection of enrollees for the Civilian Conservation Corps within the continental United States. The department delegated this duty to a State Director of Selection within each state, who then worked down through counties, municipalities, and other political subdivisions to obtain the names of qualified men who wished to enroll in the Corps. All such men were required to be from families on the public relief rolls.

B. Veterans Administration. The Veterans Administration was responsible for selecting the war veterans' quota of enrollees throughout the United States. This contingent was approximately ten percent of the total authorized strength.

C. War Department. The Department of War had for its major function the receipt of the men selected by the other agencies; their camp assignment; the transportation of the men to the conditioning camps and then on to the conservation camps; and the command of each conservation camp—from its construction, administration, discipline, and supply, to sanitation, medical care, hospitalization, education, and welfare, managing the work details within the camps themselves and other administrative functions around camp. At the outset of the CCC, the U.S.F.S. and the National Park Service realized they did not have the manpower to carry out the camp operations so it fell to the U.S. Army essentially by default to handle these functions. The office of the Chief of Finance for the U.S. Army also acted as the fiscal agent for nearly all phases of the CCC.

Fechner made it abundantly clear that even though the Army had control of the administration of the camps, there was no "militarism" connected with the running of each camp. There was, however, a certain amount of military protocol in the camps. Monday through Friday, the men rose at a specific time in the morning, lined up for roll call and did calisthenics, grabbed a quick breakfast, policed their barracks, then lined up again to be given over to their assigned work agency for the day. On weekends, the enrollees still rose at a designated time for breakfast in the mess hall as well as other meals provided during the day. There were also two "uniforms" for the CCC men—their work clothes and their "dress green" outfit for going to town and formal occasions in camp. The patches on the dress uniform were Army regulation, and the stripes and chevrons depicted rank and outfit.

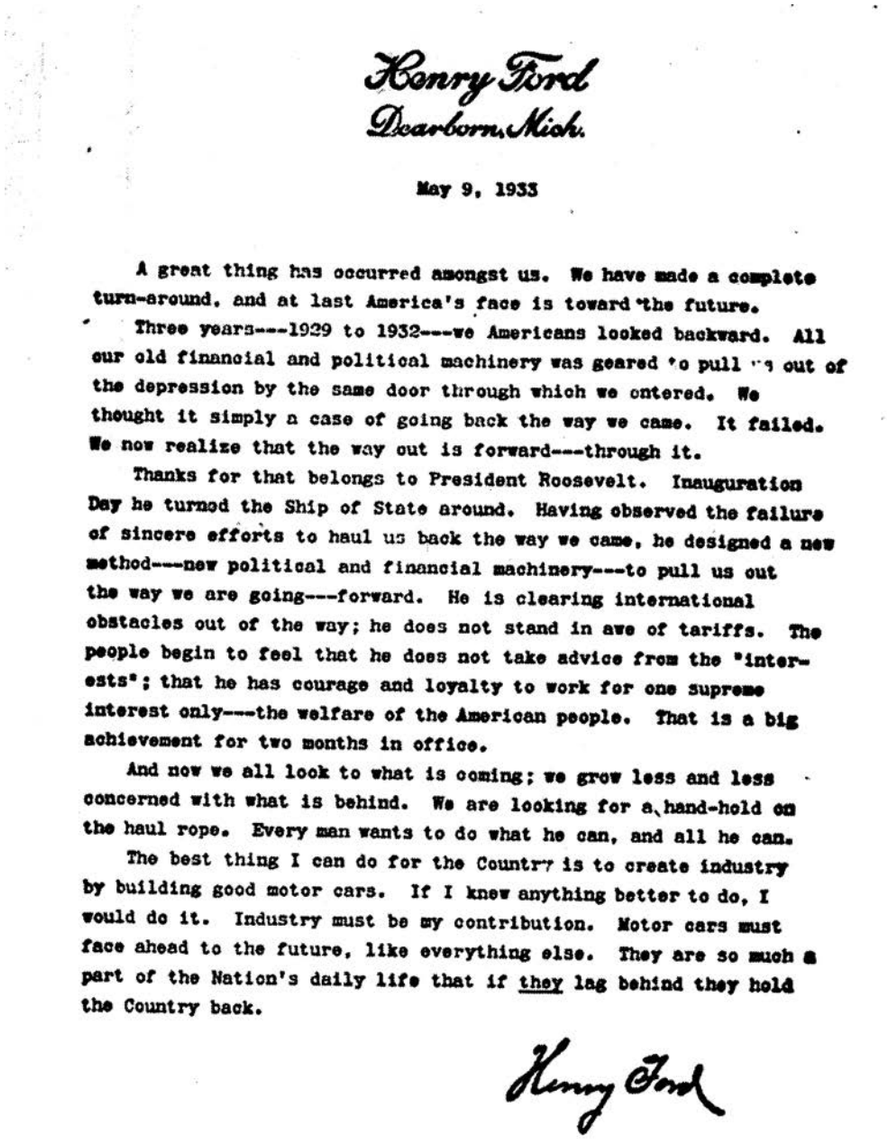
D. Department of Agriculture. Since the CCC's beginning, the majority of the work carried out under the president's executive order on public lands was done under this federal agency and its departments, which included the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Biological Survey, the Bureau of Animal Industry, the Soil Conservation Service, and others. (The majority of work out West, however, occurred primarily on Federal lands under the management of the U.S. Forest Service.)

E. Department of Interior. The majority of the duties of this department were connected with the technical supervision of many work projects throughout the United States. The bureaus within this department included the National Park Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, the General Land Office (Bureau of Land Management, or BLM), and the Division of Grazing and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Departments of Agriculture (USFS) and Interior (BLM) were adamant about keeping the army away from the project areas. Fechner quickly quashed the idea of the

military supervising CCC field projects, as the enrollees were to work on conservation projects and not be drilled as if they were in the regular army!

The relationship between the army and the executives of the CCC was not always cordial. In one of the CCC's *Happy Days* newspapers, Fechner was quoted as saying: "You are workers. You are not the objects of charity, nor are you in any respect part of the U.S. Army." In some respect, and as the success of the Corps grew, there were some in Washington that wanted to get the army completely out of the 3-Cs altogether. They felt that since the majority of work fell under the direction of the Department of Agriculture, the U.S.F.S. was the logical agency to administer all of the functionality of the Corps. Yet both the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior were ill-equipped to handle the monumental task of providing food, shelter, clothing, and all the rest for 300,000 men rotating in and out of camps every six months.



Henry Ford
Dearborn, Mich.

May 9, 1933

A great thing has occurred amongst us. We have made a complete turn-around, and at last America's face is toward the future.

Three years---1929 to 1932---we Americans looked backward. All our old financial and political machinery was geared to pull us out of the depression by the same door through which we entered. We thought it simply a case of going back the way we came. It failed. We now realize that the way out is forward---through it.

Thanks for that belongs to President Roosevelt. Inauguration Day he turned the Ship of State around. Having observed the failure of sincere efforts to haul us back the way we came, he designed a new method---new political and financial machinery---to pull us out the way we are going---forward. He is clearing international obstacles out of the way; he does not stand in awe of tariffs. The people begin to feel that he does not take advice from the "interests"; that he has courage and loyalty to work for one supreme interest only---the welfare of the American people. That is a big achievement for two months in office.

And now we all look to what is coming; we grow less and less concerned with what is behind. We are looking for a hand-hold on the haul rope. Every man wants to do what he can, and all he can.

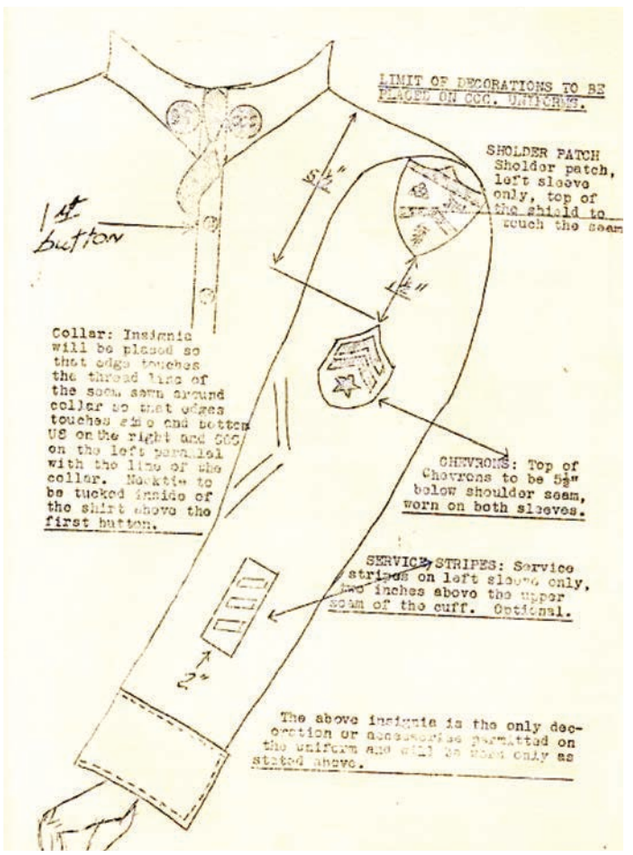
The best thing I can do for the Country is to create industry by building good motor cars. If I knew anything better to do, I would do it. Industry must be my contribution. Motor cars must face ahead to the future, like everything else. They are so much a part of the Nation's daily life that if they lag behind they hold the Country back.

Henry Ford

The president was always at the top of the CCC's organizational chart, and was keenly aware of not just organizational, but financial details as well. And it was not just for appearances. It was his program and he took his role seriously. For instance, an April 1933 letter to Director Fechner outlined exactly how much money the army thought they needed to handle the initial enrollment of 25,000 men that were to be assigned to the first CCC camp in the George Washington National Forest in Virginia–NF-1; Camp Roosevelt. Roosevelt read the report, and then scribbled across the upper left hand corner: "This figure of $1.92 per day not including transportation in wages is absurdly too high. It must be greatly reduced." Signed FDR (no date). It is unclear as to whom this note was meant—whether a note to himself, Fechner, or Colonel Major. Copy courtesy of NARA - 194778.

Top: Shown here are some of the various badges worn by members of the CCC. Notice some of the different icons and titles. Other patches were created to signify ranks, or function.[32]

Right: The CCC enrollee's handbook was quite strict on how patches were to be worn on the dress uniform. All the enrollees were required to wear their "dress" uniforms when going to town.[33]



SUPPLYING THE CAMPS

Thus the Quartermaster Corps of the U.S. Army was assigned the task of equipping, transporting, supplying, housing, and feeding the large "army" of civilian workers. The Quartermaster Corps was the agency responsible for handling these essentials for the regular army, so the task of equipping another "army" seemed natural to have fallen to this organization. From the outset, the Quartermaster General, his assistants, and his field representatives made extensive and detailed plans for the complex chore confronting them.

In addition to the logistics of supplying the initial needs of the CCC, it fell to the Quartermaster Corps to continue the monumental task of furnishing supplies for each camp for the entire life of the 3-Cs program. For instance, at just one camp, Cape Sebastian, a side camp from the Gold Beach main camp located along the southern Oregon coast, the *monthly* mess bill-of-fare consisted of approximately 7,500 pounds of potatoes; 5,100 pounds of meat; and 2,250 loaves of bread just to mention a few "basics" the camp needed.[34]

A month's supply of food to feed some 25,000 CCC boys in Oregon and Washington, for instance in 1934, was a bit more daunting: 93,750 pounds of bacon; 187,500 pounds of pork; 23,437 pounds of beans; 468,750 pounds of beef; 93,750 pounds of butter; 11,720 pounds of cheese; 93,750 pounds of chicken; 750,000 eggs; 562,500 pounds of flour; 30,000 pounds of lard; 51,724 cans of evaporated milk; 46,875 gallons of fresh milk; 93,750 pounds of onions; 468,750 pounds of potatoes and 28,125 pounds of rice. Other items included 2,737 cans of syrup; 234,375 pounds of sugar; 11,718 cans of apples; 4,210 pounds of baking powder; 118,420 cans of string beans; 2,625 cans of cinnamon; 2,812 cans of cocoa; 93,750 pounds of coffee; and 75,000 cans of corn—just to feed the men for four weeks![35]

Broken down per man, the average enrollee's monthly consumption of food from the above statistics was 18 pounds of beef; 7 ½ pounds of pork; 7 ½ pounds of chicken and bacon; along with 9 ½ pounds of sugar in a month, along with one egg per day.[35]

The initial issuance of clothing for each Corps enrollee consisted of three sets of underwear, six pairs of socks, one pair of shoes, two pairs of denim trousers, one pair of woolen trousers, two flannel shirts, one tie, one waist belt, one hat, one raincoat—and where and when necessary, one overcoat and one pair of gloves. In addition each man was supplied with eating utensils called a mess kit, a toilet set, a barrack bag, and two blankets for which they were individually responsible.

In general, each of the camps was supplied with tents, cots, mattresses, pillows, bed linens, washbasins, cooking ranges, water sterilizing sets, trash and garbage cans, lanterns, brooms, typewriters, and numerous other items. Nation-wide, the cost of the supplies for the men for the first six-month enlistment (Period 1, from April to September 1933) was $10,292,611.69; the cost of the basic equipment for the camps totaled another $5,522,788.06, for a grand total of $15,815,399.75.[36]

As one digs deeper into the operation of the CCC, it becomes clear that Roosevelt was involved in many of the details of the Corps operation, including where the individual camps were to be located and where enrollees would hail from. This detail would on occasion slow the process down and paperwork would languish on the President's desk. For instance, he established the original quota for the 17 cities from which the first 25,000 enrollees would come to populate the army's conditioning camps prior to be assigned to their CCC camp: New York City—7,500; Buffalo, New York—600; Chicago—4,000; Philadelphia—3,000; Pittsburg—900; Detroit—2,200; Cleveland—1,000; Cincinnati—500; St Louis—500; Kansas City—400; Baltimore—1,000; Boston—900; Milwaukee—600; Washington D.C.—500; Minneapolis—500; and Newark, NJ—500.[37]

THE FIRST ENROLLEES: A DEJECTED LOT

At the time the CCC program was launched, the State Forester from Oregon at the time, Lynn F. Cronemiller, had been summoned to Washington D.C. for a detailed explanation of the program by Secretary Henry A. Wallace, including how each state would be allocated a certain number of camps and men. Apparently Cronemiller was in D.C. when a group of enrollees climbed aboard an army truck for transportation to their conditioning camp. He noted they were a dejected lot. The young men slumped along, quiet, uncertain, and confused. There was a hopeless attitude about them, even with the promise of clothing, food, and shelter, and some of them looked to the experience with foreboding.

When the young men signed up for the Civilian Conservation Corps, all took the following oath:[13]

I (name of worker) do solemnly swear (or affirm) that the information given above as to my status is correct. I agree to remain in the Civilian Conservation Corps for six months unless sooner released by proper authority and that I will obey those in proper authority and obey all the rules and regulations to the best of my ability and will accept such allowances as may be provided pursuant to law and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

I understand, agree, and understand that any injury received or disease contracted by me while a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps cannot be made the basis of any claim against the government as such as I may be entitled to under the act of September 7, 1916 (39 Stat 742) (an act to provide compensation to employees of the United States suffering injuries while in the performance of their duties and for other purposes) and that I shall not be entitled to any allowances upon release except transportation in kind to the place at which I was accepted for enrollment.

I understand further that any articles issued to me by the United States government for use while a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps are and remain the property of the United States government and that willful destruction, loss, sale or disposal of such property renders me financially responsible for the cost thereof and liable to trial in the civil courts.

I understand further that any infraction of the rules or regulations of the Civilian Conservation Corps renders me liable for expulsion therefrom. So help me God."

PERIOD	6-MONTH TIME FRAME
1	April 1, 1933–September 30, 1933
2	October 1, 1933–March 31, 1934
3	April 1, 1934–September 30, 1934
4	October 1, 1934–March 31, 1935
5	April 1, 1935–September 30, 1935
6	October 1, 1935–March 31, 1936
7	April 1, 1936–September 30, 1936
8	October 1, 1936–March 31, 1937
9	April 1, 1937–September 30, 1937
10	October 1, 1937–March 31, 1938
11	April 1, 1938–September 30, 1938
12	October 1, 1938–March 31, 1939
13	April 1, 1939–September 30, 1939
14	October 1, 1939–March 31, 1940
15	April 1, 1940–September 30, 1940
16	October 1, 1940–March 31, 1941
17	April 1, 1941–September 30, 1941
18	October 1, 1941–March 31, 1942
19	April 1, 1942–September 30, 1942

At some point in the inauguration of the CCC program, someone in Washington DC determined that a six-month enrollment time frame was the proper length to keep a young man working in the forest camps. These time frames also corresponded to the major seasons of the year.

Each man was also handed his personal copy of the CCC handbook. It contained many of the rules to be adhered to in the camp life of a 3-Cs enrollee.

SIX-MONTH SERVICE PERIODS: SUMMER AND WINTER

The men could sign up for an initial Period of six months. In the program's beginning an enrollee could "re-up" for a second six months, but after the twelve months they were given a train ticket home. This gradually changed, with some enrollees spending up to two years in the Corps. As we get into the specific camps in southwestern Oregon, we'll see that companies of enrollees were not only rotating in and out of the camps they first arrived at—they also moved from summer camps to winter camps then back to summer camps and all combinations in between. The enrollments were still broken into six-month rotations called "Periods."

Once an enrollee from the East Coast was transported to a camp out West, they would not see their families for the duration of their six-month enrollment Period. They had truly "gone to camp"—but not for recreational purposes. They were worked hard and paid little. All enrollees who re-registered for another six-month tour were given a six-day break with full pay. Generally that was insufficient time for them to travel back home (often across the country), so many simply took a vacation to see the sights that were within a reasonable distance from their camp.[33] One story relayed in the 1976 book C.C.C. Boys Remember: A Pictorial History of the Civilian Conservation Corps by Glenn Howell, a graduate of the CCC program—exclaimed that he was glad that people were beginning to write about the Corps, as his grandchildren thought it was kind of a "reformatory" where he was sent to work off his fines![38]

The above "Periods" are easily broken into summer Periods and winter Periods. Many of the camps in Oregon were located at higher elevations, subject to snow, or were in isolated locales with only muddy road access during the wet winter months. Once each summer Period neared completion, enrollees were given a choice to either return to the army conditioning camp from which they came, or re-enroll at the current camp.

Those young men who enrolled for the winter Period in the Oregon got a clear message from the District Commanders about what to expect if they stayed on for the winter:

"...The easterners who have been here during the summer have been frankly told of the conditions here during the winter, so that all who remain will be aware of what they may expect. They have been informed they may anticipate considerable rain during the winter and much of their work may be done under muddy and damp conditions.

"On the other hand, they have been promised warm, weather-proof clothing, warm living quarters and plenty of good food. The Eugene District has been complimented on the food served in the mess halls during the summer Period, but Major Corlett plans a cooking school for all company cooks so that the winter meals will be even better.

"The establishment of winter quarters will mean a considerable expenditure of funds in Oregon and is in line with the army's policy of securing supplies and equipment locally whenever possible..."[39]

IMPROVING THE BODY, MIND, SKILLS, AND SOUL OF ENROLLEES

Roosevelt was looking for the overall improvement of the young men of America. Not only would the Corps strengthen their bodies, he exclaimed, but it would provide substantial educational programs at every camp such that each man would have the opportunity to improve his chances of employment when his service in the CCC ended. In addition, he expected the camp ministry and educational leadership in each camp to also improve the moral character of every man. A local column in a January issue of the camp newspaper published at China Flat, Oregon was but one example of how this moral exposure was accomplished:

"Each individual life is a sublime experiment. Each personality on the planet is a novelty; it is absolutely unique; nothing like it has ever appeared before. No man is of much importance to the world if he is of no importance to himself. This world will get along without us, if we let it. Our business is to make life meaningful enough to challenge attention. Our sphere of influence may not be great, but it is none the less important. This is not self-importance or conceit; it is rather to emphasize the importance of one 's self. It is to show the value of the individual in the whole meaning of life. If every man would set to work to cultivate one new virtue, or weed out one old vice each year, he would realize his dreams concerning himself in no time." [40]

The editor of the southwestern Oregon-based *Grants Pass Daily Courier* newspaper certainly had no way of knowing just how fortuitous his prediction would be as he wrote on August 3, 1933:

"...In the years to come it is probable that President Roosevelt will be given more commendation for the idea back to his citizen's conservation camps than for any other in his vast program for economic recovery. Possibly in the dollars and cents consideration it may not be economic but the idea of draining the congested centers of idle young men, ready for anything even a life of crime and sending them to forest camps where for months they know discipline, have enough work to keep them in good physical trim, good food and living conditions and best of all where they are away from associates ready to lead them into a life of crime. The President, by this plan is starting hundreds of young citizens to a better life..."[41]

Many local citizens who lived near the camps did not seem to fully understand how and why the young men were enrolled and that the CCC was not just another government hand-out program. Some had the perception that the young men who had arrived at the camps from the East were "citified" and really did not measure up to the local boys who grew up in the woods out West. The local paper printed in Gold Beach, Oregon helped set them straight when it carried a story on their front page on February 23, 1934 about the performance of the "boys" from two of the nearby camps, Cape Sebastian and Humbug, located along the Oregon Coast about 60 miles north of the California-Oregon border:

SEBASTIAN CAMP BOYS WINNERS IN FIRST CCC ROLLEO

"...Several hundred people who heretofore may have labored under the impression that CCC camp members were still the "softies" they were considered when they first enlisted in the work were given a real surprise yesterday when the nation's first CCC rolleo was held in this city. The boys from Camp Cape Sebastian and the Humbug Mountain Camp demonstrated they had become thoroughly used to the ways of the west in closely contested events such as: Double undercutting, single bucking, double bucking, falling, chopping, wood splitting, splicing and finally catching a greased pig..."[42]

One of the local camp newspapers gave the enrollees some thoughtful questions to contemplate as they climbed aboard the train at Marshfield, Oregon (now Coos Bay–the name being changed by a vote of the people in 1944), for the first leg of their journey home after their six-month tour in the Corps was up:

"... Physically are you not stronger in muscle and steadier in nerves? Mentally are you not keener in thought and clearer in understanding? Morally are you not more able to withstand temptations and to hold on to your highest ideals" Socially, are you not more settled in our faith, more firm in your conversations and more determined?..." The paper went on to say, "...If the answer to these questions is yes, then you are not the same person who came out west for a hitch in the CCCs. You are in every way a better man, more like your home folks want you to be an better able to take you place in the busy whirl of life..." [43]

President Roosevelt was adamant about getting the CCC boys out of the Corps and into private sector jobs. In a message carried in the September 1934 issue of *Happy Days*, Roosevelt wrote: "If any of the boys now enrolled after making an honest effort to find a job, cannot do so, then the President will authorize that boy to re-enroll for another six months' Period".[44] However, Fechner issued an order that stated that the maximum time that any enrolled man could remain with the CCC was 24 months, regardless as to whether the enrollment had been continuous or not.[65] During the CCC's first six months of operation 18,377 men left the Corps to take outside employment, with the largest number coming from the 9th Corps.[45]

EARLY EVOLUTION OF THE CORPS: NATIVE AMERICANS, BLACK INTEGRATION, AND VETERANS

While one of the first objectives of the Emergency Conservation Work Act was to get the unemployed youth off the streets of America, two important modifications became necessary early in 1933. The first extended a special enlistment program to 14,000 Native Americans whose living conditions could be described as deplorable and who were largely ignored by the New Deal. It is not the intent of this book to delve into this part of the Corps, except to say that the Native Americans became part of the CCC when in mid-1933, President Roosevelt authorized $5,875,200 to support approximately 72 Indian CCC camps on reservations throughout the United States. During the nine years the CCC existed, some 88,349 Native Americans were enrolled to work on Indian reservations to reclaim some of their land's productivity at a cost to the taxpayers of approximately $72 million.[46]

As with all Civilian Conservation Corps volunteers, black CCC enrollees contributed to the protection, conservation, and development of the country's environmental resources too. Black enrollees planted trees, fought fires, and took part in pest eradication projects, as did their white counterparts. They built and improved park and recreation areas, constructed roads, built lookout towers, and strung telephone and electric wires. They were paid the same as all Corps enrollees, and the money sent home assisted their families that were especially hard-hit by the depression. The CCC camps provided enrollees with educational, recreational, and job-training opportunities they could not get elsewhere. It is an interesting side note that one report cited that the African American boys stayed in the CCC approximately twice as long as their white counterparts.[47]

African American CCC members performed their duties in a society still divided by race, and often in the presence of officially sanctioned racism. Black membership in the CCC was set at ten percent of the overall membership—roughly proportional to the percentage of African Americans in the national population. However, because the economic conditions of blacks were disproportionately worse than those of whites, this race-based quota system did not adequately address the relief needs of African American youth. When the CCC began, few efforts were made to actively recruit African Americans. Many states, particularly in the South, passed over qualified black applicants to enroll whites.

Black CCC enrollees routinely faced hostile local communities, endured racist attitudes in individual CCC camps from Army and Forest Service supervisors, and found limited opportunities for assuming leadership positions within the CCC's administrative structure. This inhospitable environment was aided by the absence of a sustained commitment on the part of the Roosevelt Administration to end racist practices within the Corps.

In the early years of the CCC, however, some camps were integrated. In fact, when the first trainload of men passed through Grants Pass on their way to Camp Rand, on April 24, 1933, twenty-two out of the 122 enrollees were black.[48] However, the ubiquitous attitude of discrimination throughout the United States quickly infiltrated the CCC too. Robert L. Collins, adjunct general of the War Department, issued a memorandum to all corpsmen on September 10, 1934. This memo read, in part:

". . . Colored personnel will be employed to the greatest extent practical in colored units within their own states of origin. In the future segregation of colored men by company, while not mandatory, will be the general rule and earnest effort will be made to reduce the total number of colored men in white units..."

Due to this memorandum, integrated CCC camps were disbanded in July, 1935, when CCC Director Robert Fechner issued a directive ordering the "complete segregation of colored and white enrollees." While the law establishing the CCC contained a clause specifically outlawing discrimination based upon race, Fechner held that "segregation was not discrimination." Sadly, one can see the abyss created by segregation in a 1935 letter from Director Fechner to NAACP leader Thomas Griffith: [49, 50]

September 21, 1935

Mr. Thomas L. Griffith, Jr.
President
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
1105 E. Vernon Avenue
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Griffith:

The President has called my attention to the letter you addressed to him on September 14, 1935, in which you ask for information relating to the policy of segregation in CCC camps.

The law enacted by Congress setting up Emergency Conservation Work specifically indicated that there should be no discrimination because of color. I have faithfully endeavored to obey the spirit and letter of this, as well as all other provisions of the law.

At the very beginning of this work, I consulted with many representative individuals and groups who were interested in the work, and the decision to segregate white enrollees, negro (sic) enrollees, and war veterans, was generally approved. I believe that the record of the past thirty months will sustain the wisdom of our decision.

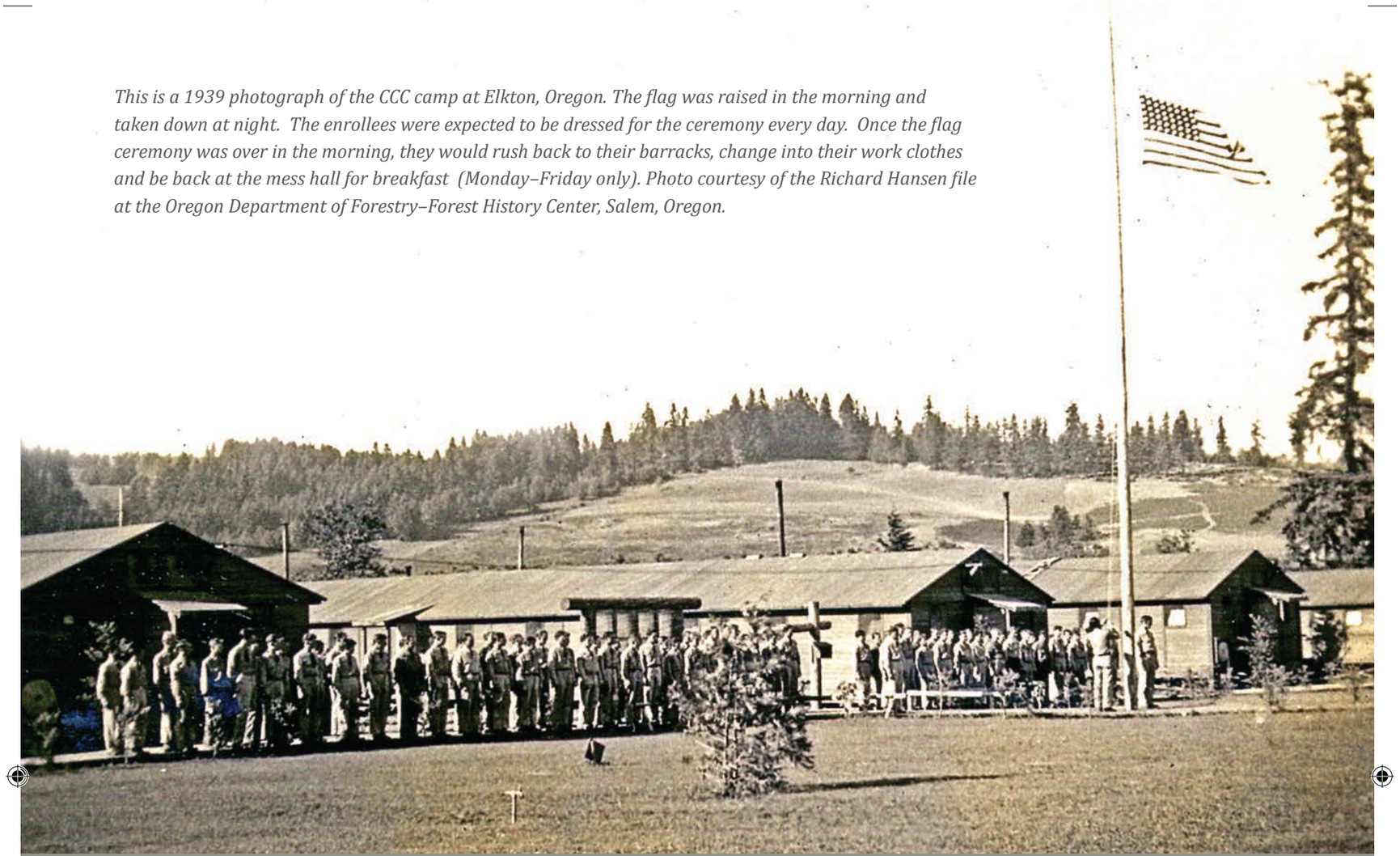
While segregation has been the general policy, it has not been inflexible, and we have a number of companies containing a small number of negro (sic) enrollees. I am satisfied that the Negro enrollees themselves prefer to be in companies composed exclusively of their own race.

This segregation is not discrimination and cannot be so construed. The negro (sic) companies are assigned to the same types of work, have identical equipment, are served the same food, and have the same quarters as white enrollees. I have personally visited many negro (sic) CCC companies and have talked with the enrollees and have never received one single complaint. I want to assure you that I am just as sincerely interested as anyone in making this work of the greatest possible value to all who have a part in it.

Sincerely yours,
s/a
ROBERT FECHNER
Director[49]

Another sidebar to the CCC involved veterans of foreign wars. Veterans twice marched on Washington DC demanding some special relief for their sacrifices of war—once in the spring and summer of 1932 and again in a smaller group in March 1933. The latter became known as the "Bonus Army." Pressure mounted for the president to deal with the veterans who were suffering the same economic ills as the rest of the nation. And a month following the inauguration of the CCC, Roosevelt issued Executive Order # 6129 authorizing the immediate enrollment in the 3-Cs of 25,000 veterans of the Spanish American War, the Philippine Insurrection, the Moro Expedition, the Boxer Rebellion and WWI, with no age or marital restrictions. Unlike the standard CCC enrollee, veterans were not obligated to send home a portion of their monthly pay. However most did. The CCC camp at Port Orford, Oregon was one such camp that was populated solely by veterans. It was the only such camp in Oregon where all the enrollees were veterans.

Unlike the standard CCC enrollee who was given physical examinations at the government's expense, veterans paid their own transportation fees to travel to obtain a physical examination prior to being admitted to the CCC. However, if the veteran was rejected for some reason, the government paid for that person's transportation back home. In general, these examinations occurred within a reasonable distance from the veteran's home. Once enrolled in the Corps, these men were housed in separate camps from other enrollees and performed duties in conservation that were suited to their age, education level, and physical condition. About 250,000 veterans passed through the ranks of the 3-Cs during the nine years of its existence. Information about them is scarce, but I did find out that at the very least, the camps at Steamboat Springs, Pistol River, and Port Orford, Oregon employed WW I veterans in 1933.[50]



This is a 1939 photograph of the CCC camp at Elkton, Oregon. The flag was raised in the morning and taken down at night. The enrollees were expected to be dressed for the ceremony every day. Once the flag ceremony was over in the morning, they would rush back to their barracks, change into their work clothes and be back at the mess hall for breakfast (Monday–Friday only). Photo courtesy of the Richard Hansen file at the Oregon Department of Forestry–Forest History Center, Salem, Oregon.

PART III
NEW TYPE OF ORGANIZATION/CAMP LIFE

When the CCC was created not only did Roosevelt and Fechner have to set up the organization's management at a national level, but the basic governance of each camp's domestic life, as well as each work project's leadership, needed to be created too. In a sense, the CCC had to create its own society.

At 8:00 am each morning on Monday through Friday the enrollees were turned over to one of the agencies—generally the USFS for the camps out west. The organizational chart for the work detail once the army turned the enrollees over to the field agency was much more streamlined and changed depending upon the type of work being performed. There was, however, a work site Project Superintendent that corresponded to the Commanding Officer of the camp. This person had complete autonomy over the each of the projects outside the camp. They also supervised the "spike," or side camps, that were built to reduce travel time to work sites. As mentioned earlier, this caused some contention with the army as they wanted control of each camp, no matter the size or location. Fechner said "no" and that is how the program for all side camps was administered.

There was no "book of rules" as to how this new organization was to operate; never before had there been an animal like the CCC. The young program was an experiment in top-level management and the program often ran afoul of bureaucratic or political inertia. Things didn't "click" right at first, even though it was formulated by Roosevelt and Fechner to be streamlined to prevent red tape from strangling the newborn agency. Fechner and the Council knew that the 3-Cs was FDR's pet project. Technically, Fechner held complete authority as to how the program was to be set up and run. However, the president retained final approval of certain aspects, such as the location of the camps. All too often, the recommendation as to where to site a camp would languish on the president's desk, slowing the process. [21]

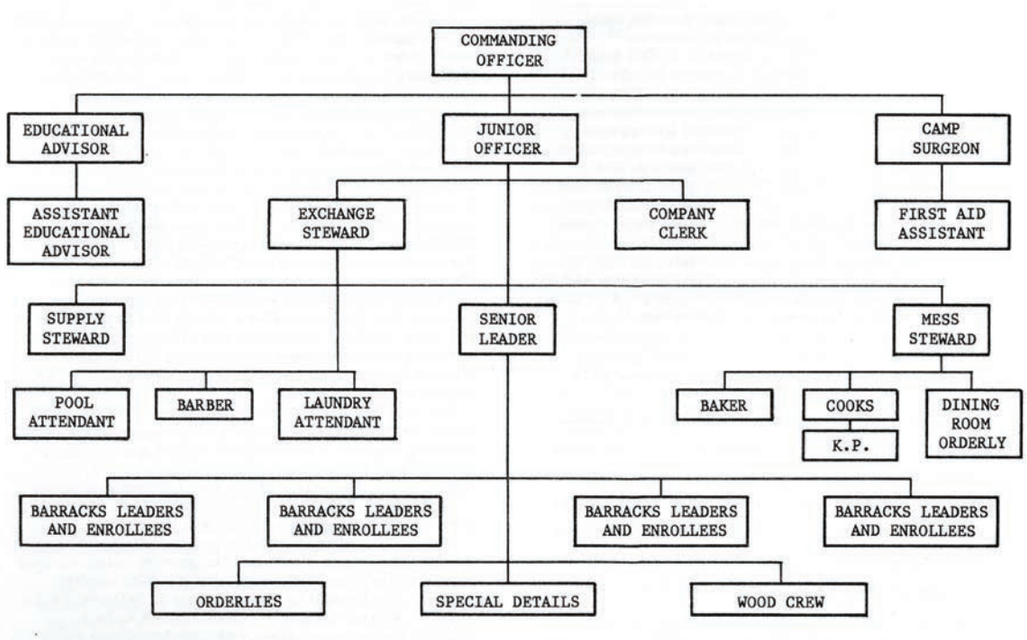
There must have been plenty of headaches at first—mainly due to the divided jurisdictions among the main government agencies involved, and each one's desire to be the lead once the camps were established. In short, the army ran the camps—providing food, medical services, and discipline; the U.S. Forest Service had charge of the work crews on the national forests; and the Bureau of Land Management had charge of work on lands under their jurisdiction; as did the State Parks and State Forest departments.

As the organization matured (and as with most government agencies), the bureaucracy of the CCC in Washington D.C. grew. In the beginning Fechner had but a few assistants (remember Roosevelt's scribbled chart?) and he relied on the army and other federal agencies to carry out many of the functions of the Corps. As with many government agencies, growth in overhead costs began spinning out of control. No matter how good the intentions and planning that went into the Corps in the beginning, the creep of bureaucracy began to overcome the agency. Nearing the end of the program in early 1942, however, the agency in Washington D.C. occupied a 15,000 square foot building and had 96 employees.[51]

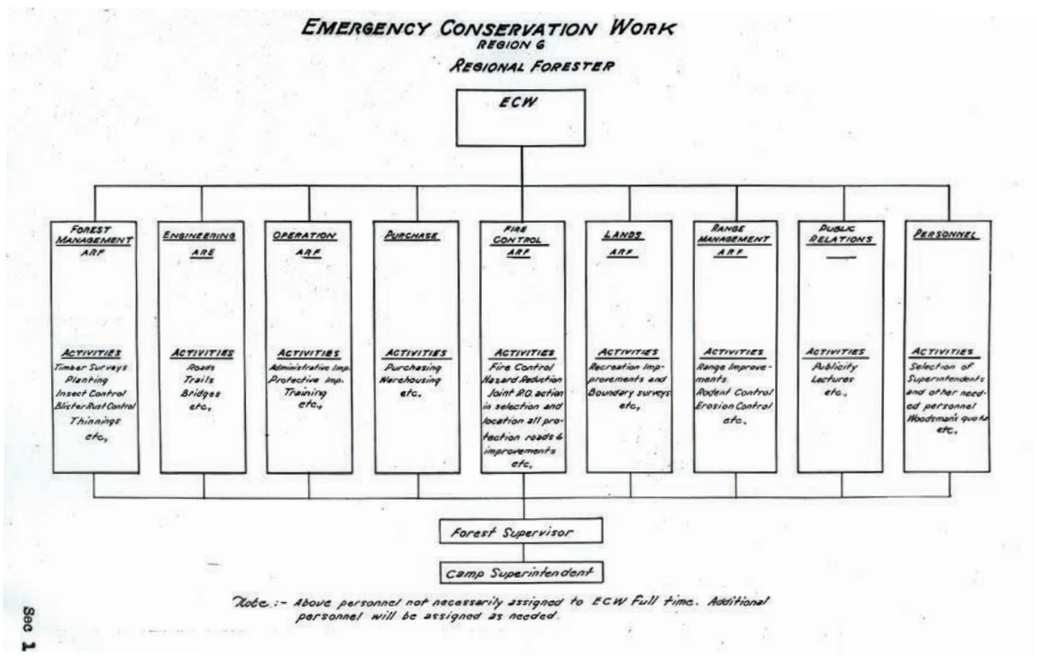
A LIFESTYLE OPPORTUNITY FOR MANY

As mentioned earlier, for most of the life of the program, one of the qualifications to be eligible to enroll in the CCC was that potential enrollees had to have come from a home that was on some type of government relief program (in the summer of 1940, that stipulation was lifted). Consequently, many of the young men were often malnourished and in poor physical shape to start with. And many had begun to live a precarious, vagabond life. While a home address was necessary for enrollment, many of the enrollees had already left their families behind and were "riding the rails" looking for a job, moving from one town to another; often simply listing their hometown as their address. "Hopping" a train was not all that easy, though, and many accidents occurred. Living in hobo camps could be dangerous too.

Enrolling in the 3-Cs provided the volunteers—aka enrollees—(remember, they were not drafted) with many new experiences: maybe it was their first toothbrush, their first set of matching clothes, their first daily shower, their first exposure to camp living with a daily schedule and routine, or their first vaccination. Many of the gangly, untrained "city boys" from the streets of Chicago or New York could not be assigned directly to a forest camp out West, so the army would assemble them at a military base for a couple of weeks to teach them the "finer" points of camp discipline and start conditioning them physically for the work ahead. These became known throughout the Corps as "conditioning camps." Health and learning programs continued at the forest camps and provided training in valuable life skills and vocations. When it was all said and done, a total of 3,463,766 men enrolled in the CCC. Their average age was 18–19 years old; they weighed an average of 147 pounds



The management of each CCC camp by the army was organized down to the last detail. The above is a general organization chart for all Civilian Conservation Corps camps, which represented the pecking order for the men's "home base," from each camp's Commanding Officer on down to its barber and wood crew. Its beauty lies in both its detail and functionality, and some may find it interesting to learn just how the duties of a well-run camp were arranged.



This chart is similar to a later one that describes in more general terms the functionality of project management once the army turned the enrollees over to the field agencies. Here the chart shows the actual forestry and engineering projects that would occur under each supervisor responsible for carrying out the programs.

FAMOUS CCC BOYS

Several well-known, successful Americans were 3-Cs alums. One "CCC Boy" was none other than the actor Walter Matthau. His memory of the Corps was limited to the time he bet a fellow enrollee that he could stop a table saw with nothing more than his bare hands. For years he carried the memory of that fateful day when both of his thumbs were broken as he tried to stop the saw blade. The winning prize in the bet was a Snickers Bar; Matthau's prize was a poorly-set right thumb that constantly reminded him of this time in the Corps. He also claimed that he gained 50 pounds during his CCC service. [21] Other notable celebrities who spent time in the Corps included Raymond Burr (actor); Archie Moore (the Light Heavyweight Boxing Champion of the World); Robert Mitchum (actor); Chuck Yeager (test pilot); Stan Musial (Saint Louis Cardinals baseball player); Albert Fred "Red" Schoendienst (baseball player with multiple major league clubs); and Aldo Leopold (ecologist, environmentalist, former technical forester).

and were an average of 5'8 ¼" tall. One statistic stated that within three months of being at a camp, with plenty of good food and demanding physical work, the average enrollee gained 11.5 pounds! [52, 53]

For the typical enrollee, the actual arrival at their designated camp was the culmination of a rather lengthy process. He would have applied for consideration as an enrollee at the local selection agency and might have waited a couple of months while his application was processed. If accepted, he was sent to one of the army's conditioning camps where he'd receive a physical examination, get vaccinated (for typhoid and smallpox), and be observed as to how well he responded to army discipline.[33] It was here that the enrollee would be assigned to a company. Few were washed out at this juncture. The new recruit would then be shipped off with the rest of his enrollees in the company to a CCC camp.

He knew his work would be physical and out of doors. If he was to work in a forest camp, he was expected to put in a full eight hours per day (including travel time and one hour off each day for lunch), five days a week. He would also be "on call" for fire duty—when the workdays would be much longer.

HAPPIER DAYS

FDR, being the consummate politician, never missed an opportunity for a staged photo op or chance to get his political messages out. His 1932 presidential campaign theme song was the musical ditty "Happy Days Are Here Again," so it was somewhat logical that the national newspaper of the CCC was entitled *Happy Days*. In the July 8, 1933 edition of *Happy Days*, President Roosevelt wrote a welcome note of encouragement to the camp enrollees:

"I welcome the opportunity to extend, through the medium of the columns of Happy Days, a greeting to the men who constitute the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Congratulations are due those responsible for the successful accomplishment of the gigantic task of creating the camps, arranging for the enlistments and launching the greatest peacetime movement this country has ever seen.

It is my belief that what is being accomplished will conserve our natural resources, create future national wealth and prove of moral and spiritual value not only to those of you who are taking part, but to the rest of the country as well.

You young men who are enrolled in this work are to be congratulated as well. It is my honest conviction that what you are doing in the way of constructive service will bring to you, personally and individually, returns the value of which it is difficult to estimate. Physically fit, as demonstrated by the examinations you took before entering the camps, the clean life and hard work in which you are engaged cannot fail to help your physical condition and you should emerge from this experience strong and rugged and ready for a reentrance into the ranks of industry, better equipped than before. Opportunities for employment in work; for which individually you are best suited are increasing daily and you should emerge from this experience splendidly equipped for the competitive fields of endeavor which always marl; the industrial life of America.

I want to congratulate you on the opportunity you have and to express to you my appreciation for the hearty cooperation which you have given this movement which is so vital a step in the Nation's fight against the depression and to wish you all a pleasant, wholesome and constructively helpful stay in the woods."[54]

ORDERLINESS AND CAMP LOGISTICS

There would be no military discipline or drilling in the CCC camps.[55] In the beginning, this was a major source of friction among the four advising agencies to Fechner. It was resolved by a compromise of employing some of the discipline of the regular army— enrollees would adhere to a strict daily timetable and duty assignments around the camps, including policing the camp and organizing their specific barracks in military style—but they would not be required to march in formations, salute officers, and so forth. And aside from firefighting duties, which took precedence over all other duties 24/7, the weekends belonged to the men.

Most of the officers who administered the functions of the camps came from the Army Reserve lists, but the Navy and Marine Corps were also engaged. George Dern, the Secretary of War at the time noted later that these Reserve officers gained valuable experience in the CCC. They had to learn to govern men through leadership, explanation, and diplomacy rather than harsh discipline common in the typical military ranks. Many of the officers of the 3-Cs went on to serve in WWII with distinction.[6]

Not only were the logistics of supplying the camps with equipment and housing a challenge, it took "an army" of cooks and stewards to feed the 200 men in camp three squares per day. Here the mess crew at Camp Agness pose for a shot of their baked goods, ca. 1935. Photo courtesy of Ms. Donna Gould.

THE PROGRAM'S SOCIAL IMPACT

After just a few years, the CCC program had great public support from all corners of the nation. A Gallup poll in 1936 showed 86 percent of the respondents favoring the program. And young men flocked to the recruiting stations.

Not only did the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps focus on the restoration of both agricultural and forest lands, it also presented an opportunity to transfer middle class values and life skills to young men from the streets of the nation's big cities. Few records were kept of the sociological impact of the 1930s on the nation's young men, but it had to be positive. Many had never been beyond the borders of their home state, and others had not even left the confines of their hometowns, cities or farms.

Yet after their CCC experience, many would never return. Some chose to remain in towns near where their camps were located. Others married local girls, raising families and putting down roots in their new region. Those who did return to their original homes came back as successful products of an experiment in living that had renewed and restored their confidence.

Time and time again, the camp newspapers carried articles on the benefits of the 3-C's — not only to the communities surrounding the camps or the maturing of the enrollees, but also to the "quiet benefits" among the men of the CCC. One article written by Jack Marks entitled "Bonds of Fellowship" touched upon one of those rewards:

Top: CCC barracks were kept in military style, and the men performed other duties similar to that in a boot camp. However, there was no marching or saluting superior officers. The men did line up each morning for roll call, and a flag ceremony was conducted each morning and evening.
Bottom: The size of each camp was designed to hold approximately 200 enrollees. This 1933 photo of the enrollees at Camp McKinley, near Coos Bay, Oregon—one of the camps that will be detailed later—gives one a sense of the logistics required to feed, house, and equip each small "army" of men. While the U.S. Army was in charge of the camps, abiding by semi-military protocol was really not an issue. Photo courtesy of the University of Washington.

"...If all the good that the CCC has done in beautifying the country and making monuments in the way of roads bridge and parks, were discounted, and just one thing that all of us have gained, more or less, was left to us, there would still be a monumental, imperishable and invaluable asset gained—Fellowship.

The meeting of the fellowship of the boys from the city and boys from the farm—boys from the east and boys from the south, the friends gained by the meeting of the congested east and the expansive west in the person of live healthy American youth! It is not to be determined in dollar and cent. It is counted by the individual C boy in FRIENDS, men and boys, and girls too. The boys have lived together—in Fellowship.

Why must we find out how much we miss our friends from camp until they are gone? They have left on the train for home, but we shall never entirely forget. We'll get a flash of someone that we spent so many days in the C's with and the chain of friendships will be never ending. The bond of Fellowship may grow thin with the years, but somehow it will never break..."[56]

COSTS AND BENEFITS

In the June 1938 edition of the CCC camp China Flats newspaper, *The Siskiyou Stag*, it was reported that the "CCC total cost $396,547,796.36 for fiscal year 1937 for an average of $191,661.57 per camp" (based upon 2,069 camps scattered throughout the country).

In a 1940 report issued by James J. McEntee (the successor to Fechner after Fechner died in December 1939), the total average cost to transport, house, feed, supervise and pay an enrollee in the CCC over the previous 6-month Period was estimated at $790.09 per enrollee. Added to this figure was the cost of "overhead" which included the pay for local experienced men (or LEMs—non-enrollee workers, hired to assist with CCC projects and education), their travel and subsistence, and other incidental fees not related to the work of the enrollee was another $209.91 per enrollee. The latter included the pay for the Camp Commander, the project supervisors, the education adviser, camp doctor, and chaplain, just to mention a few. These costs were considered necessary by the CCC director and his high-level advisers for the proper function of the Corps.[57] With that kind of money being spent, some may have wondered, in the language of an economist, "What was the benefit-cost ratio of the CCC?"

What were the benefits? They were immeasurable! In the words of newsman and author Tom Brokaw, of my generation, programs like the CCC helped produce "The Greatest Generation"—humble men (and women) who worked and fought not for fame and recognition, but because it was the "right thing to do." The 3-Cs also churned out a massive amount of much-needed infrastructure for the country.

A SAMPLING OF CCC PROJECTS OUT WEST

So, what did the CCCs produce? Statistics range far and wide as one reads about the work done by the Corps, but our focus here is on the projects and camps in southwestern Oregon. For example, during the first six months of work (Period 1 from April to September 1933) the enrollees at six 3-C camps located within the boundaries of the Siskiyou National Forest in Southwestern Oregon, completed the following projects:

"Construction of three horse barns each holding eight horses and fifteen tons of hay; five fire equipment sheds each 30x50 feet, and equipped with lockers and power grinding outfits; seven road equipment sheds each 30x50 feet for storing machinery; five gas and oil building with tank and pumps for handling these products at each station; forty miles of telephone line, ten of which were metallic circuit; sixty miles of truck trail roads and betterment on some eighty miles more; twenty-two lookout buildings many of which had to be packed to their location piece by piece; several bridges; domestic water systems fences and various other smaller projects. In addition, some two hundred miles of forest boundary has been located and posted."[17]

And that did not include the hundreds of man days spent fighting forest fires and protecting homes scattered in local areas. The boys worked hard, and not surprisingly, the pages of local newspapers from the time were filled with columns of positive comments on the accomplishments of the "boys of the CCC."

In August 1933, the Oregon State Forester, L. F. Cronemiller, issued a letter instructing the state fire warden not to hire any civilian firefighters, because all of the labor for firefighting would be supplied by the 3-Cs. His letter indicated that the CCC camps were scattered across the landscape in such a way that they could handle any fire of any size and no local men were to be employed to fight fires. At

THE "COLOSSAL CALLUS CREATOR"

Due to lack of the initial funding of the nationwide program (and probably many organizational difficulties) during the first year of operation, the Corps had to lease heavy equipment from local private contractors. The plodding pace at which these private contracts were being prepared and executed, however, eventually pushed the federal government into a position of having to purchase trucks, bulldozers, graders and air compressors directly from the manufacturers. Once the heavy equipment arrived at the forest camps, progress on road and fire line construction increased markedly. Up until the heavy equipment arrived, however, the work was all done by hand labor.

There was a lot of hand construction of forest trails and even some roads were "pioneered" into the woods using only hand labor if no heavy machinery was available. As a result, one of the enrollees coined the CCC the "Colossal Callus Creator"; ca. 1934. Photo courtesy of Douglas County Museum # 2783.

that time, there were over 500 men in the camps within the boundaries of Curry County, for example, and Coos County camps probably had three to four times that number.

The national newspaper of the Corps—*Happy Days*—gave front-page coverage to the Bandon fire, proudly proclaiming, "THOUSANDS OF CCC MEN DO HEROIC WORK FIGHTING WESTERN OREGON'S WORST FIRE—Hundreds of Homes Saved and People Rescued by Men Rushed from Oregon and Washington Camps into Most Threatening Forest Fire in Coastal Mountains in Years. Forest Service, Army and CCC Function in Near-warlike Precision."[59]

The article went on to describe some of the events with a summary captured here:

"...Fanned by dry east winds in late September, fires sprang up along the western slopes of the coast range of Oregon hungrily snatching at valuable timber stands, scenic forest strips and offered a major threat to ranches and towns.

Into this threatened area at first call came more than 1,500 enrollees from 32 CCC companies, relieving a situation too big for the local, state or national forest agencies singly, but in which these organizations manfully worked together fighting fires, rescuing settlers, evacuating the injured and holding disaster to a minimum.

Tree troopers were credited in the Coos and Curry counties with saving about 2,500 dwellings, a saw mill, storage tank and dock. Rescues at Bandon came from Camp Sitkum, recruited in Chicago, Camp Woahink, recruited in New York and Camp Gunter (Drain) and Walker camps which were all Oregon boys.

Men travelled 500 miles to get to the fire line

Three hundred men from Darrington, Snyder, North Bend (WA), Quilicene, Naches, and Taneum Camps widely scattered in the western Washington rolled into Gold Beach during the night having come 120 miles by train from Fort Lewis, Washington to Grant Pass, thence by bus 150 miles to fight fires at Pistol River and Euchre Creek.

Except for the USFS camps near the Canadian border, all the USFS camps along with fourteen State camps in western Oregon and Washington were all involved in fighting the fire..."

Left: building a forest trail by hand. Right: Of course, firefighting was a major component of the work in the 3-C camps out West. That is not to say that fires were not an issue in other parts of the country, as they were. One statistic pegged the number of man-days the men of the CCC spent fighting wildfires throughout the country at 6.5 million man days from 1933 to 1942.[51] The above artist renditions of CCC trail work and firefighting was taken from the book We Can Take It, written in 1935 by Ray Hoyt (pages 38, 64 and 65).[58]

If not for the availability of so many 3-Cs boys, the Bandon fire indubitably would have been much worse. The event resulted in a stronger bond between the grateful local communities and CCC enrollees who were proud of the work they'd accomplished and the lives they helped save.

PAYDAYS FOR MANY

The CCC program flowed money back into the weak economy in several ways. Of the $30 monthly pay the non-supervisory enrollees of each camp were paid, they were required to send $25 per month back home to their families. This may not seem like very much in today's world, but multiply that amount by 300,000 enrollees and it meant a great deal to the economic recovery of the nation. One estimate pegged the total average amount of money sent home (and ostensibly then put back into the economy to multiply even further) at $6,500,000 per month.[60]

That's not to mention the financial benefits that flowed to local merchants, farmers, and beef ranchers from the camps, which bought many supplies and foods locally. For instance, the following advertisement appeared in the September 1934 *Grants Pass Daily Courier* (Grants Pass, Oregon); seeking local vendors to supply some 5,400 men scattered throughout the Medford District:

> *"...Bids to furnish food for the members of the southern Oregon's 27 camps this winter will be opened soon, according to a bulletin received from the district quarter master's office in Medford. The bulletin is posted in the chamber of commerce building. Bids will be made on meats, vegetables, potatoes and several other products, all to be delivered in Grants Pass, Crescent City, Medford, Gold Beach and other southern Oregon and northern California points..."*[61]

One can imagine how thrilled local merchants were, after so many lean years, to have the opportunity to sell such large amounts of their goods so close to their farms, ranches and stores.

CHALLENGES OF THE BACKCOUNTRY CAMPS

Adding to the challenge of supplying 200-plus men with food and supplies was the mere fact that many of the camps were located far from transportation facilities. This made necessary the use of mule trains to transport provisions and equipment to the camp. This was particularly true for camps out West in the 9th Corps Area, of which many were in Oregon—Camp Agness and China Flats, were prime examples. In the case of these isolated camps, packers were regularly employed to carry supplies in.

However, even in the remotest of locations, during holidays, the boys in these isolated camps did not "go without." For instance, the 226 men at Camp Rand, located on the Rogue River below Galice, Oregon, would not go without all the fixins' for Thanksgiving in 1933. They had 376 pounds of roast turkey along with 10 gallons of cranberry sauce, and for dessert would have a selection of 80 pies from which to choose. In addition, there were olives, creamed peas, candied squash, and stewed tomatoes, head lettuce with mayonnaise, bread and butter, cheddar cheese, coffee, and even cigars! A corps of six cooks and two bakers were assembled to carry out the tasks.

Another fact unique to many of the CCC camps out West was their location high in the mountainous regions of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and northern California. These camps could only operate in the summer months when snow was off the ground or the access roads to the camp had sufficiently dried out so vehicles could access them. So each year when the weather turned sour, the men at these isolated summer project camps were moved to what became known as their "winter camps" (the winter camps also became the home for new enrollees who had just entered the Corps during that Period).

However, the winter camps were not merely recreational facilities where the men waited for better weather; the men performed new project work there too. To understand the magnitude of essentially creating, in many instances, two complete camps for the same CCC Company, one can look to the late fall of 1933, when the government spent a bit more than $19 million on lumber, supplies, and labor to move the enrollees from their summer work camps into winter quarters. During that effort, 1,218 buildings were constructed throughout the country, including barracks, recreation halls and other structures. For the winter camps alone, a total of 300 million board feet of lumber was purchased from local mills for the construction of the buildings.[17]

While I found no consistency in the work performed as men moved from summer camps to winter camps, I can say that in general, the work performed out west by the enrollees during the spring-fall Period involved heavy road construction, fire trail maintenance and wildfire fighting. During the winter season, the men worked on projects that

Top: Since much of the forests had little or no access roads, some of the "truck trails" built by the Corps were just that—roadways only slightly wider than a trail! Here a four-wheel-drive truck travels precariously along the Chetco Ridge truck trail in Curry County, Oregon, that provided access to the backcountry by the district ranger in charge of the area, as well as firefighting vehicles. Photo courtesy of Griffith, September 1940.

Bottom: Enrollee planting tree. Photo courtesy of NARA

were closer to their camp that had better access. This might involve minor road construction, but the wet winters along the coast limited the road projects. In the case of the CCC camp at Charleston, Oregon, the enrollees worked on the road to Cape Arago as well as the park itself.

EDUCATING THE CCC ENROLLEES

Work projects were not the only improvements CCC enrollees made. Self-improvement was an integral part of the 3-Cs—much of it in the form of education offered at the camps. Fechner and Roosevelt were adamant that the program help prepare these young men for life after they left the Corps–not only to find a job in the private sector, but also to improve their social skills.

As noted earlier, Roosevelt realized that by removing idle young men from the streets of America, not only would he be addressing the environmental needs of the nation and reducing the potential for criminal mischief—but by offering discipline, training, and education, the CCC could also provide these youths with a greater chance of overall employability in a modern, industrialized job market once they returned to the private world. This meant some type of educational program would be needed in each camp. Roosevelt appointed Clarence M. Marsh as the first Director of Education to design and head up the Corps' education program.

While it may be overgeneralized, several sources researched for this book indicated that the average CCC recruit had completed an eighth grade education, and had the ability to read at the sixth grade level. Since the initial enrollment requirement stipulated that the young men were to come from families who were unemployed and on some type of government assistance program, it's not surprising that their educational level was so low. And since the allocation of an enrollee to a camp occurred regardless of their illiteracy, each camp was likely to have some boys who could not read or write very well, if at all.

One study put the average illiteracy level of CCC recruits at 5 percent of all enrollees. According to the Department of the Army, nearly 2,000 CCC companies (containing 375,000 men), the Gulf Coast states had the highest proportion of illiterates; Pacific Coast states the lowest. Nearly 80 percent of those lacking an education were under twenty-five years of age, nearly all were American born, and five-sixths were from rural areas and small towns. Yet for many of these uneducated youths, the CCC offered an important leg up: a third study remarked that by the end of the 3-Cs program 11,000 illiterate black enrollees had been taught to read and write in classes offered by the CCC camps across the nation.[62]

However, there were internal conflicts at the highest level in the organization. Fechner considered that the relief of unemployment and the promotion of useful conservation work were the chief activities of the CCC; education was secondary. His attitude was, in a sense, commensurate with his responsibilities as director of an organization which he had to justify each year on the basis of work performed, not lessons learned. He was therefore reluctant to spend more money on education because this would simply mean less for the work projects, and work was what the CCC had been created to do. Neither did the President stress "book learnin'" for enrollees of the Corps. In fact, he would pare down annual budgets for the Corps' educational programs. Frustrated by an apparent lack of comprehensive support for the program, Marsh resigned as Education Director in 1935 after two years of valiant effort. [63]

Within a few months after the first CCC camp opened, the Department of the Interior's Office of Education prepared a manual entitled: *"A Handbook for the Educational Advisors in the Civilian Conservation Corps Camps,"* which set the standard for the learning programs each camp was to provide its enrollees. In general, educational advisors had considerably more formal education than enrollees, and so in a sense they became the headmasters of the camps' education programs. The Education Advisors might come from a town near the camp and stay only on weekends or during the evening hours after the enrollees finished dinner; while other Advisors might come from other states and apply for the position and hence stay at the camp for longer periods of time. Of the total number of academic offerings across the country, 16 per cent were at the elementary school level, 27 per cent at the high school level, and 5 percent were college courses.[64]

Left top: A typical fire crew truck of the CCC out West; Courtesy of Douglas County Museum # N9423.
Left bottom: Two enrollees from Camp Fairview near Coquille, Oregon, seen here falling an old-growth Douglas fir snag near a fire line, ca. 1933. Photo courtesy of Siskiyou National Forest, USFS photo #391960.

The Bear Creek fire camp. The men from the CCC camp at China Flats take time to relax a bit before heading back to the fire line. October 1936; Courtesy of the USFS-Gold Beach Ranger Station.

Top: One cannot abandon a general discussion of the firefighting prowess of the Civilian Conservation Corps without touching briefly on the impact they had on the most devastating fire in Oregon's modern history. The locals know it as the Bandon Fire, but it really was a series of moderate-sized fires sprinkled along the coastal region of Oregon from the California border to the Coquille River at Bandon. The men from the CCC camp at China Flats are seen here on their way to the Bear Creek fire that was part of the Bandon Fire Complex, October, 1936. Courtesy of Douglas County Museum # N 9399.

Bottom left: CCC men from China Flats Camp near Powers, Oregon line up at the pay master to receive their wages for fighting the Bandon Fire Complex in October 1936. They received no extra pay for the long hours and days they spent on the fire line. An enrollee only got a "bump" in his $30 per month pay when and if he was promoted to a leadership role. Courtesy of the USFS Gold Beach Ranger Station.

Bottom right: Mules were often used to supply the isolated CCC camps with food and necessities; Courtesy of Douglas County Museum # N 9407.

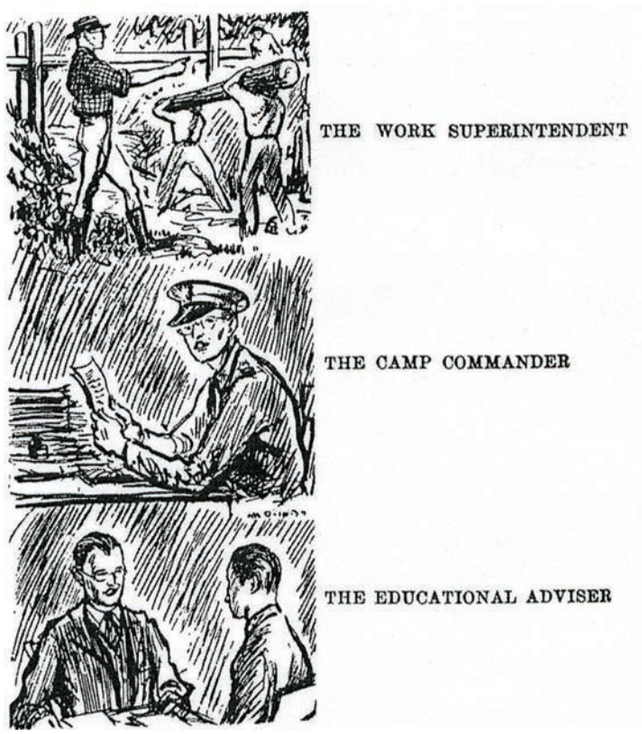
Since the general education level of the recruits was low, courses in social studies, reading, writing, arithmetic, and other traditional subjects were taught in the evenings after supper at most camps. If the camp was located close to a school, enrollees could arrange to attend classes there, and some enrollees even earned a high school diploma or college credits through correspondence courses.

But many other courses taught at the camp sites by local experienced men (LEM) focused on specific skills, some of which were directly related to the work the enrollees undertook during the day, such as operating heavy equipment, carpentry, stone masonry, land surveying, engineering, landscaping, first aid, cooking, photography, blacksmithing, welding, and others. The enrollees were also introduced firsthand to the philosophy of conservation that had formed the basis of their CCC work: that our national resources of rivers, forests, and soil must be protected for the public good. Each camp was equipped with a library of magazines and books on various topics, fiction and nonfiction. Camp newspapers always carried a column written by the camp's educational advisor, encouraging the men to take advantage of the library and the classes being offered.

However, the main intent of Marsh's philosophy was to eliminate or reduce illiteracy at each camp. The efficacy of the educational program for the enrollees rested with the initiative of each camp education advisor to make it happen.

For example, the educational advisors from across the country were able to persuade 5,400 illiterate enrollees (88 percent of the total number interviewed) to take part in an instructional program; between June 30, 1934 and June 30, 1935, CCC instructors taught more than 4,000 illiterate young men nation-wide to read and write. Of the total number of these illiterate Americans, a fifth had no prior schooling whatsoever before entering the Corps, and nearly 70 percent had less than four years of formal schooling. Several CCC reports indicated that there was an intensive effort to eliminate such illiteracy amongst all enrollees during the nine years the 3-Cs existed.[65]

In addition to the basic education and vocational topics, a number of civilian doctors and dentists signed up to serve in the camps. (During the Depression years, numerous MDs faced financial ruin since many of their patients couldn't pay their medical bills, so many enlisted in the Corps).[6] Since the physicians had a far better education than most others in camp, some taught evening classes to the enrollees along with taking care of the men's medical conditions. However, doctors did not typically take on the role of the camp educational advisor, but rather would provide classes in first aid and other important programs, serving under the advisor. Dentists generally made the rounds of the camps within their region, staying at a camp until all their patients were taken care of. They might not return to the camp until the next official Period.

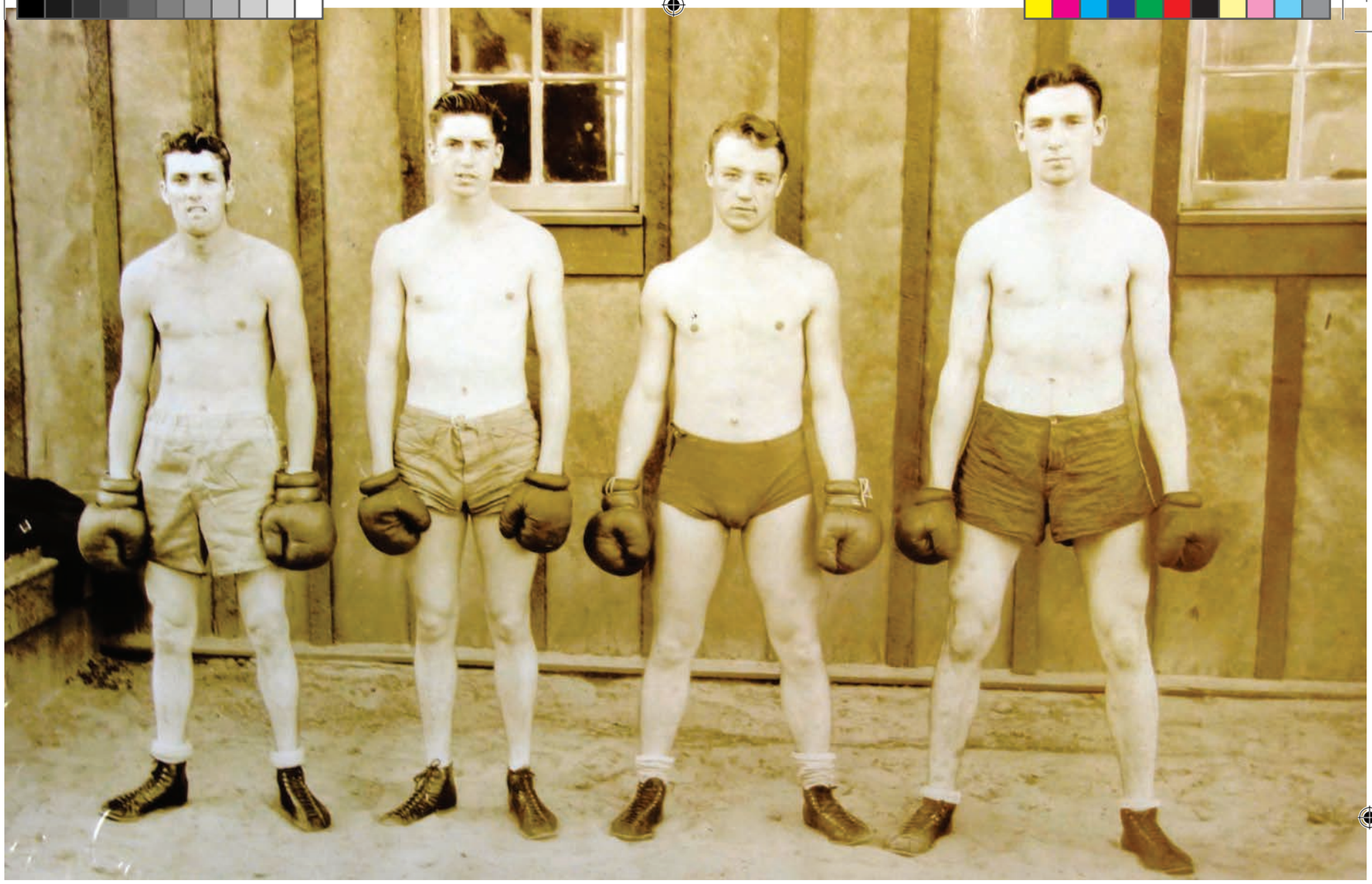


The above sketch, of the three leaders within each CCC camp, was taken from the book Saga of The CCC by John D. Guthrie, 1942.[66]

RECREATION AT THE CCC CAMPS

The CCC men worked hard and studied hard, but they also wanted and needed time for fun and socializing. The CCC offered at least some opportunities for sports and recreation at each camp; though some camps got more creative at garnering amusements to make camp life pleasurable.

The enrollees' other recreational needs were also addressed—in both the summer and winter camps. Each camp had a recreation hall that was equipped with numerous conveniences, comfort, and entertainment including reading and writing materials, refreshments at the canteen—and some of the camps even had motion pictures with sound.



The camps often held intra- and inter-camp boxing matches where no grudge was involved; it was simply for recreation. It was a real honor to be crowned the champion boxer of the camp—but for the boys in southern Oregon, the real reward was to be crowned the champ of the entire Medford CCC District. All the enrollees as well as many locals from the communities around the camps would show up to watch the inter-camp and private boxing matches held at a 3-C camp.[67] Here contestants from the CCC camp at Reedsport, Oregon demonstrate the size levels for the competition. Note the large size of the gloves; ca. 1934. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

Outdoor sports often included the ever-popular boxing, as well as tennis, baseball, basketball, hunting, fishing, and swimming, depending upon where the camp was located. A few camps even put together football teams for inter-barrack rivalry.

While the following story has nothing to do with the CCC camps in southern Oregon, it demonstrates the ingenuity of the enrollees of the Corps to make their camp life as pleasant as possible:

"You don't have to look very far to find the details of this interesting bit of Arizona CCC history. In his terrific book, The Ace in the Hole, author and CCC alumnus Louis Purvis writes of his experiences as a CCC boy from Texas, working in the Grand Canyon National Park. Purvis was a member of Company 818, working at Camp NP-3-A at the bottom of the Grand Canyon in 1935. Perhaps it comes as no surprise that the boys in that camp were starved for recreational distractions to keep them occupied and entertained when they weren't going about the arduous work of trail construction at what must have been one of the most remote CCC camp locations in the United States. Sure, the boys had a swimming pool (which they'd built) and there were athletic events like boxing and wrestling matches and even

Ping-Pong games on plywood brought down by the enrollees, but something was missing.

A group of enrollees approached their leaders and broached the idea of obtaining a pool table for the Company to use. The leaders agreed to take the matter up the chain of command. The CO explained why such an undertaking was unworkable: the components for a pool table, including the slate playing surface were simply too heavy to be transported on the backs of Army mules from the South Rim via the Kaibab Trail. The enrollee spokesman pointed out to the captain that the enrollees were simply asking for a pool table, not the means to transport it to camp. Facing this sort of dedication and single mindedness, the commander relented and released money from the company canteen fund to purchase a pool table.

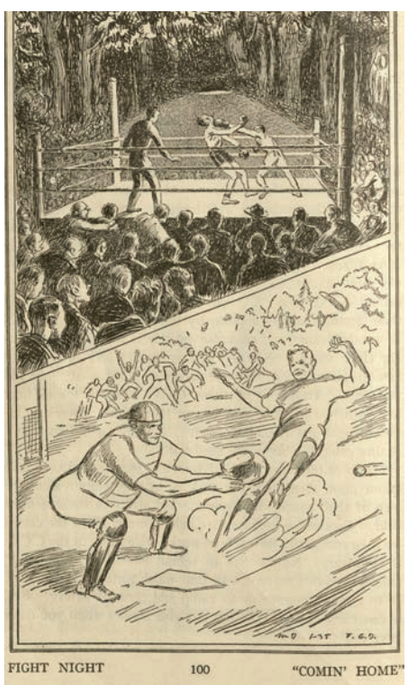
The pool table was acquired and delivered to the South Rim's Yaki Point. One hundred CCC enrollees volunteered to assist with transporting the table from the rim to the bottom of the canyon. Fifty enrollees hiked to the rim and carried the disassembled pool table to the halfway point, where fifty more enrollees waited to take the load the remainder of the way into camp. The transport expedition set out on a Saturday morning, the table was delivered to camp by Sunday afternoon, and the enrollees were shooting pool on their new table Monday evening. Looking back, Louis Purvis wrote, 'The consensus of opinion of everyone was that this was the best investment the company ever made.'"[68]

CAMP INSPECTIONS

To insure that all camps were operating in a clean and efficient manner, each camp was inspected regularly by members of the CCC director's staff. Fechner was a real stickler for these inspections and the reports were sent directly to him. This was especially true for the educational component of the Corps. The following is an example of the report from Camp # S-228 in Reedsport, Oregon; not only does the camp inspector describe the educational activities, but his reports to Fechner also included a narrative about the overall condition of the camp, including daily meal menus, etc.

DISCIPLINE IN THE CCC CAMPS

The reserve officers in charge of camp operations really had limited authority over the enrollees. After all, this was not an army camp, but a place the enrollees could call home—for a period of time at least. The camp commander, however, could assess fines of up to $3 for disruptive behavior by an enrollee, or assign an enrollee to distasteful work at the camp itself. The monetary fines came out of the enrollee's pay of $5 per month. The thought behind keeping the army in charge of the camp probably stemmed from the fact that



Top: The CCC football scrimmage at Camp Elkton; ca. 1933–34. Photo courtesy of the Richard Hansen file at the Oregon Department of Forestry–Forest History Center, Salem, Oregon. Right: Artist rendition of the recreation opportunities in the CCC camps was taken from the book We Can Take It, by Ray Hoyt, p 100.[58]

many of the young enrollees came from a pretty rough background and the sight of an army officer decked out in uniform may have welled up some semblance of fear and respect. All branches of the military had personnel in the CCC camps at one time or another. If the truth be known, these camp officers came from the reserve ranks of the military who themselves were probably out of work in the private sector as well![69]

The October 1941 camp newspaper from China Flats, located just south of Powers, Oregon, put the hefty $3 fine (60 percent of a CCC enrollee's monthly pay) in this perspective:

"When a doctor makes a mistake, he buries it.
When a plumber makes a mistake, he charges twice for it.
When a lawyer makes a mistake, it's just what he wanted so he can try the case all over again.
When the preacher makes a mistake, no one knows the difference.
But when an enrollee makes a mistake, Oh, Oh, Three bucks!"

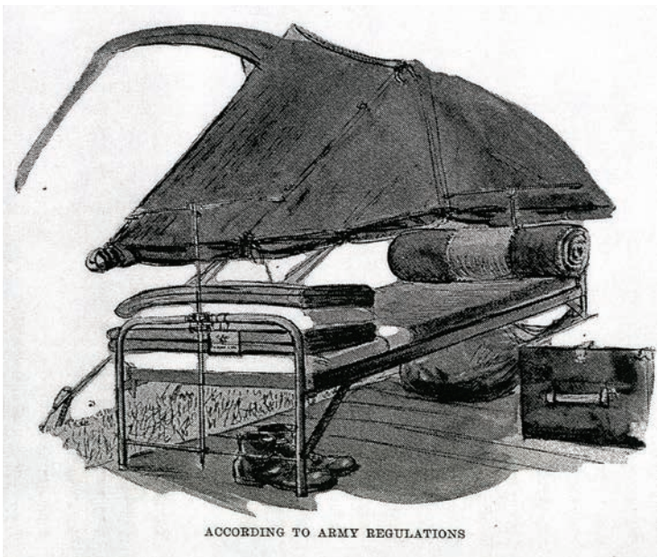
Another source of discipline for the more serious crimes involved giving the accused enrollee a "D.D." (the exact meaning of which I could not discern. It could have meant a "Dishonorable Discharge.). D.D.s were given to enrollees convicted by a civilian court for cases of theft or moral turpitude, contentious behavior on or around camp grounds, drunkenness or possession of liquor in camp, desertion, and refusal to work in order to gain discharge. In such cases, the enrollee was removed from the camp and the Corps, with no railroad fare or allowance given for his trip home. The enrollee often had to wait until the next group of enrollees rotated out and left for home. Nor did the government provide food or shelter while the enrollee was waiting for the next troop train to leave.[70] Thus a D.D. was quite severe and expensive for an enrollee—not to mention that they missed out on any further education through the camp, as well as the chance to earn (and send home to family) any further monthly pay. Because of this potential punishment, the men generally behaved themselves.

Since each of the main CCC camps had its own newspaper, the commanding officers of the camp would often insert letters warning about camp behavior that might lead to disciplinary action. One such letter (albeit with a humorous tone) showed up in the Camp Walker # S-204 paper as the enrollees were about to move from a rather isolated locale at the head of Schofield Creek in western Douglas County, Oregon, to the camp within the town limits of Reedsport, Oregon. The newspaper's name was *Trailsend*:

"...Decent language and clean talk is another item (along with a demand that the enrollee's attire was more appropriate for viewing by the public) which will doubtless come in for some bearing down. Out here (at Camp Walker) in the deep woods where there is no one to hear but yourself (on second thought some of the language must even shock the speaker himself) a few sizzling cuss words are not to be too darkly frowned at. But in town not so good."[71]

THE PROGRAM MATURES

By 1935, essentially most of the major "kinks" were ironed out of the Corps and enrollment was at an all-time high. Individual congressmen and senators were quick to realize the importance of the camps to their constituencies and political futures. Letters and telegrams began flooding the CCC director's desk requesting (or rather, demanding) the building of new camps in their states. By the end of 1935 there were 2,650 CCC camps sprinkled across



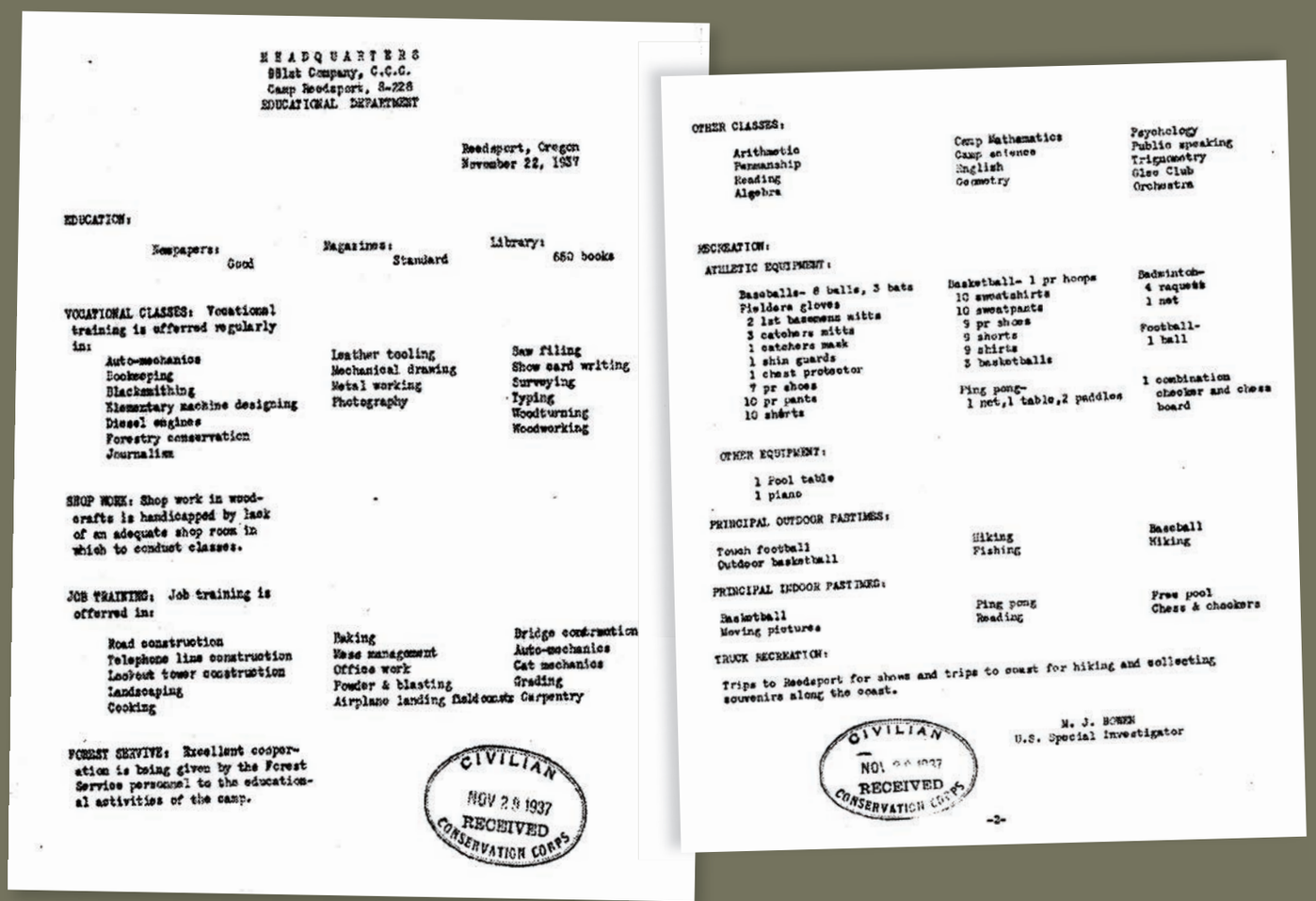
Inspections and reports included the condition of the camp sleeping quarters. The above sketch depicts how an enrollee's bunk was to appear, whether inside a tent as temporary camp quarters before the wooden barracks were built or in a side camp where amenities were pretty basic. Everything had a place, but only the non-essentials were stored in the locker—if one was available. Sketch taken from the book Saga of The CCC by John D. Guthrie, 1942.[66]

INSPECTION OF EACH CCC CAMP

In a later inspection report for Camp Reedsport the following was written: *"The aim of the education department is not to catalogue each enrollee into a type and tell him what career to follow, but rather to teach him the methods for self-appraisal and the method for career planning. The final objective of all your CCC training is to secure a* POSITION—YOU CAN DO IT—FOR ALL WHO WISH TO LEARN." There was a very expansive list of class offerings in the camp, including correspondence courses from California and Idaho University Extension Offices.

On a more humorous note; in another inspection report for a different camp, the inspector suggested that the enrollees needed more baseball gloves. I never learned what other deficiencies were found at that camp!

In addition to the camp reports issued by the official inspectors, the USFS periodically sent their own inspectors out to the CCC camps. In general, they checked to make sure that the project superintendent's offices were well organized and that the daily diaries were kept. The inspectors were also asked to rate the personal relations with the army, the cooperation given by the army, and the cooperation given to the army. The reports also spoke to the general condition of the camp, whether there was a comprehensive camp plan, how the crews were organized, whether the educational work was being done, whether the tool supply was adequate, as well as rating the condition of the vehicles and fire equipment and the health of the men. The list was extensive and gave yet another interesting view into camp life.



HEADQUARTERS
881st Company, C.C.C.
Camp Reedsport, S-228
EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Reedsport, Oregon
November 22, 1937

EDUCATION:

Newspapers: Good
Magazines: Standard
Library: 650 books

VOCATIONAL CLASSES: Vocational training is offerred regularly in:

Auto-mechanics
Bookeeping
Blacksmithing
Elementary machine designing
Diesel engines
Forestry conservation
Journalism
Leather tooling
Mechanical drawing
Metal working
Photography
Saw filing
Show card writing
Surveying
Typing
Woodturning
Woodworking

SHOP WORK: Shop work in woodcrafts is handicapped by lack of an adequate shop room in which to conduct classes.

JOB TRAINING: Job training is offerred in:

Road construction
Telephone line construction
Lookout tower construction
Landscaping
Cooking
Baking
Mess management
Office work
Powder & blasting
Airplane landing field constr.
Bridge construction
Auto-mechanics
Cat mechanics
Grading
Carpentry

FOREST SERVICE: Excellent cooperation is being given by the Forest Service personnel to the educational activities of the camp.

CIVILIAN NOV 29 1937 RECEIVED CONSERVATION CORPS

OTHER CLASSES:

Arithmetic
Penmanship
Reading
Algebra
Camp Mathematics
Camp science
English
Geometry
Psychology
Public speaking
Trigonometry
Glee Club
Orchestra

RECREATION:

ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT:

Baseballs- 8 balls, 3 bats
Fielders gloves
2 1st basemens mitts
3 catchers mitts
1 catchers mask
1 shin guards
1 chest protector
7 pr shoes
10 pr pants
10 shirts
Basketball- 1 pr hoops
10 sweatshirts
10 sweatpants
9 pr shoes
9 shorts
9 shirts
3 basketballs
Ping pong-
1 net,1 table,2 paddles
Badmintob-
4 raquets
1 net
Football-
1 ball
1 combination checker and chess board

OTHER EQUIPMENT:

1 Pool table
1 piano

PRINCIPAL OUTDOOR PASTIMES:

Touch football
Outdoor basketball
Hiking
Fishing
Baseball
Hiking

PRINCIPAL INDOOR PASTIMES:

Basketball
Moving pictures
Ping pong
Reading
Free pool
Chess & checkers

TRUCK RECREATION:

Trips to Reedsport for shows and trips to coast for hiking and collecting souvenirs along the coast.

M. J. BOWEN
U.S. Special Investigator

CIVILIAN NOV 29 1937 RECEIVED CONSERVATION CORPS

-2-

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON, D. C.

FILE REFERENCE: Camp Reedsport, Company 981, S-228, Reedsport, Ore., 22nd., 1937. (Nov.)

Mr. Robert Fechner, Director,
Civilian Conservation Corps,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr, Fechner;

Attached please find camp report, Army-Technical Personnel, Educational Adviser's report, and menus for above camp. Buildings erected in 1934, wired for lighting, adequately heated, and commercial power used for lighting. Company moved here ~~Xx~~ Sep't. 20th., and prior to that time, camp site was occupied by W.P.A. Considerable rehabilitating, cleaning, etc, was necessary, and at the present time, camp is in excellent condition.

Health; Three enrollees in quarters, two in hospital, and no venereal diseases, the past year. Superior typeinfirmary-dispensary.

Religion; Services held in camp semi-monthly, but camp is near Reedsport, and boys can walk to town any Sunday, if they wish.

Wood; About 100 cords on hand, and a winter supply assured.

Recreation; Fully covered in attached letter.
Educational; Very comfortable reading, and class-room.

Work projects; Technical personnel are well satisfied with enrollees. Powder is stored in a log type magazine, isolated, and bullet proof. Caps are stored in a separate place. All powder work is supervised by experienced men. All work projects approved by Supervisor. Meals good. Co-operation, good.

Camp overhead, twenty-one. Net worth all funds, Oct. 31st., $1304.62.
Fresh pasteurized milk is served daily.
All enrollees are well supplied with clothing, and foot-wear.
Each enrollee has a steel cot, cotton mattress, sheets, pillow, pillow-case, locker, and china dishes. Clean sheets and pillow-cases are issued weekly, while personnel, furnish their own linen. Most of the enrollees launder their own clothes. Flush toilets are used throughout camp.
There are no subversive activities in camp.
The amp is also free from bed-bugs, and all other vermin.
The living quarters of the Technical Personnel, are being improved, and many other improvements are being made in ord r to properly rehabilitate the camp. Company has good cooks, baker, well policed buildings, and camp grounds, and for the short period here, is in excellent condition.

Sincerely yours,

W. J. Bowen

the nation. Eventually even Alaska, Hawaii, and the Virgin Islands would receive camps.

As enrollment in the Corps peaked in the mid 30's, President Roosevelt wrote an article that was published in the 1936 national newsletter of the CCCs—*Happy Days*—addressing how the program had met his expectations (in part):

> *"...Although many of you entered the camps undernourished and discouraged through inability to* obtain employment *as you came of working age, the hard work, regular hours, the plain, wholesome food, and the outdoor life of the C.C.C. camps brought a quick response in improved morale. As muscles hardened and you became accustomed to outdoor work you grasped the opportunity learn by practical training on the job and through camp educational facilities. Many of you rose to responsible positions in the camps. Since the corps began, some 1,150,000 of you have been graduated, improved in health, self-disciplined, alert, and eager for the opportunity to make good in any kind of honest employment.*
>
> *Our records show that the results achieved in the protection and improvement of our timbered* domain*, in the arrest of soil wastage, in the development of needed recreational areas, wildlife conservation, and in flood control have been as impressive as the results achieved in the* rehabilitation *of youth. Through your spirit and industry it has been demonstrated that young men can be put to work in our forests, parks, and fields on projects which benefit both the Nation's youth and conservation generally..."*[72]

SIDE CAMPS

One of the items often overlooked by authors investigating the 3-Cs were the "side camps"—sometimes called a "spike

Another venue for resolving conflicts that arose between enrollees was to put them into a ready-made boxing ring at the camp. (This use differed, of course, from the recreational and competitive boxing programs that the camps offered regularly.) While the camp newspapers reported a limited number of disputes that arose within the camps or work sites, if two men "came to blows," the Commanding Officer of the camp would have the pair put on large boxing gloves and pound away at each other in the ring until the dispute was resolved. Photograph from Camp Remote, ca. 1933. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

camps" or "fly camps"—associated with a main Corps' camp. It took a while for the side camps to really get going, as transportation was key to their success and the government simply did not have sufficient trucks in the early months of the program. These sites were generally set up during the early spring, to minimize the travel between a main camp and a summer work site. No matter what they were called, a lot more work was done that would not have otherwise been accomplished if the men had to travel long distances from the main camps every day to reach their work sites. Since the forest roads out West were rather primitive or non-existent, it was more practical for the men to travel to the spike camp on Monday mornings and return to the main camp on Friday evenings. Obviously, the side camps tended to be more rustic in nature with quarters composed of tents, likely with wooden floors. However, all had an adequate mess hall and some had even small recreation buildings with an abbreviated library.[73, 74]

One such spike camp was established in June 1940 on Iron Mountain, south of the little town of Powers, in Coos County, Oregon. It was part of a road construction project undertaken by the men of Company #5443 located at the main CCC camp at China Flats. The road would tie together the area of Iron Mountain/Gribble and the coast. The spike camp housed 60 to 70 men and was composed of a portable mess hall, kitchen, and recreation hall. The men were housed in structures holding five men each and consisted of a pyramidal tent with boarded floors and low wooden side walls. There was also fire truck stationed at the camp that was held on standby should the men be called to a fire.[75]

At first, these spike camps were a source of friction between the technical agency running the work sites (either the USFS or BLM) and the army. Since the army was responsible for running all the permanent camps, they presumed they would also be in charge of all of the logistics in the side camps. Since the army and the work agencies were often at odds, Fechner intervened with the entire weight of the president behind him. In July 1933 Roosevelt told Fechner that all side camps would come under the jurisdiction of the technical agency—not the army.

Despite the decision about these smaller satellite camps being under the control of the seemingly less rigid USFS, there were still strict guidelines for the layout of each side camp. If the work called for a 25-man contingent, the plan called for five canvas tents, each 16' by 16,' to house the enrollees; three tents measuring 9' by 9' to house the supervising team; and a mess tent measuring 19' by 21' with adjoining tents to house the kitchen, the cook, the infirmary, and an office.

SAFETY IN THE CAMPS

Each camp was required to have a safety committee composed of the company commander, the field superintendent, and the medical officer. Training each enrollee for the work they were to perform in the woods was probably the most important element of the safety program. Teaching the boys how to handle hand tools such as axes and shovels may seem an obvious task for the boys that grew up in the country, but one must remember that many of the young men in the CCC came from big cities and probably had never handled an axe or Hoedad planting tool before.

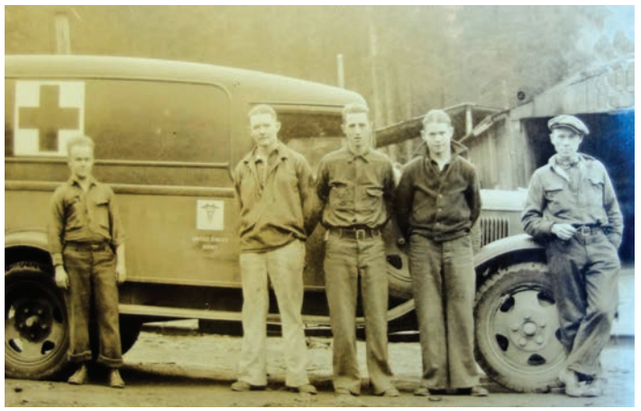
Training was also provided on the use of dynamite or the dangers of fires. Each spring, the men were given intensive training on fire line construction and the safety aspects of fighting and being around a wildfire, including how it behaves in the forest.

Vehicle accidents were by far and away the single biggest reason for enrollee deaths. Many such accidents happened in the excitement of the crews being transported to a fire miles away from their camp. Those enrollees assigned to be camp drivers or mechanics were given specific training on the importance of safe driving and vehicle maintenance as an integral part of everyday travel as well as in firefighting situations.

PRESS VOICES OF THE CCC

As previously mentioned, shortly after its creation, the CCC started its own distinctive press—the semi-official *Happy Days*. The first edition was launched on May 20, 1933 (about one month following the creation of the CCC) when Volume 1 Number 1 appeared with twelve pages in a five-column printed format. The paper was owned by a WWI regimental sergeant major named Melvin Ryder. From his combat experience and thorough reading of the army newspaper, *Stars and Stripes*, during the war, Ryder knew what the men in the camps wanted to hear. It became the national voice of the corps, and the source of some content for this book.

In addition to *Happy Days*, there were over 5,000 CCC camp newspapers, generated from both main and side camps sprinkled across the nation. As we delve into the camps in southwestern Oregon, I reference many of the



Safety in the camps and in the field was a specific component of the rules of the 3-Cs. The above photograph is of the ambulance at Camp Remote, ca. 1939. The camp was located in Camas Valley some 25 miles west of Roseburg, Oregon. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album. Complete accident statistics for each camp are all but impossible to compile, but the April, 1937 issue of the newspaper from the China Flats Camp referenced the fact that in October 1936 to September 1937, there were 47,983 injuries to CCC enrollees reported across the nation or 1 in every 7 was hurt sometime during the year.[76]

Happy Days *was the semi-official national voice of the CCC.*

local camp newspapers to give some flavor about what was happening in each locale. In some cases, they were the only source material I could find for a specific camp.

As we proceed to discuss in more detail the 3-Cs camps in southwestern Oregon, the reader should keep in mind that most of the enrollees are no longer with us, so first-hand interview information was not available for this book. The main source of information about the workings of each camp were either found in sporadic articles in local newspapers, journals where interviews were printed, or in the specific camp newspapers themselves—and with those, as with other historical articles, they were incomplete and often few and far between.

Trucks full of CCC enrollees from Camp McKinley head out to work. Photo courtesy of Velmar. T. Mack.

PART IV
THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS COMES TO OREGON

This bronze statue of a typical CCC enrollee is located outside the Forestry History Museum at the Oregon Department of Forestry headquarters in Salem, Oregon. It is the 16th such bronze statue in the United States (out of a total of 61–as of 2013) commemorating the Corps. It was dedicated on September 2, 2002. According to the CCC Legacy organization, the statue is six feet tall and weighs 460 pounds. In January 2012, a statue could be ordered from the foundry for $21,000 plus shipping. Photo courtesy of Alan Maul 2014.

Banner of the Oregon CCC, courtesy of Coos Forest Protective Association.

President Roosevelt was under constant scrutiny about his budget and the CCC was often a target by Congress. Since the funding of the Corps was never made permanent, the President had to submit a proposal to Congress each year. Following the peak in enrollment in the summer of '35, it was apparent that the country could not continue funding the Corps at that level. As word went out from Washington D.C. that the CCC was financially unsustainable, districts were instructed to begin paring back on head count. However, very little happened to the camps along the Oregon coast until enrollment dwindled as the WWII military draft competed for the young men.[79] The stable size of the CCC in Oregon may have been due to the need for the enrollees in the camps out West to provide the manpower for fighting local wildfires during the summer Periods.

For a list of all the CCC camps in the state of Oregon—including the camps covered in this book, please see the Appendix. As mentioned, my goal for this book was to focus on just those camps and camp projects that fell within a narrow band along the southern Oregon coast.

CREATING THE MEDFORD DISTRICT OF THE CCC: "AMERICA'S MOST BEAUTIFUL CCC DISTRICT"

When the notice came forth that the Ninth Corps District was to be formed from the seven western states, the Medford, Oregon District was created to manage some eighty thousand square miles in southern Oregon and a small portion of northern California. Once established, it carried the moniker of "America's Most Beautiful CCC District." As claimed in 1938 the Medford District annual report—obviously probably a bit biased! As things began to settle down after the initial push to get the 3-Cs going, several smaller CCC Districts were folded into Medford. It picked up most of the Eugene District, a major portion of the Redding, California operations, as well as the Eureka, California District.

Essentially the Medford District was bounded on the north by Eugene, and Bend, Oregon; on the south by Red Bluff and Susanville, California; west to the Pacific Ocean; and east to Hart Mountain and the Nevada line. The people of Oregon were quick to cooperate. The old Medford City Hall building was offered for use as the district's headquarters, and the Jackson County fairgrounds were offered for use by the Quartermaster's detachment. They sat waiting in anticipation as fifteen companies of CCC men were loaded onto trains headed for Oregon.[80]

In late April 21,1933, a group of men and women that made up the relief committees from Douglas, Coos, Curry, Jackson, Klamath, Lake, and Josephine counties met in Grants Pass, Oregon. The purpose of the meeting was to hear from the Siskiyou National Forest Supervisor regarding the planned programs for the six CCC camps that were to be established within the region. The group was given instructions on going over their enrollment application lists and selecting the men who would be called in for each county's first quota. They were told to select only men who were on the "relief list," per the national CCC guidelines, and the locals were ready to comply, since the goal of the group was to reduce the number of families in southwestern Oregon who were receiving other government assistance. The summer of 1933 quotas for each county were as follows: Jackson, 69 men; Klamath, 68; Coos, 59; Douglas, 45; Josephine, 24; Lake, 10; and Curry, 7. Each man selected was given a cursory physical examination by a local physician followed up by a regular army physical at points scattered throughout the state. Once that work was completed, the men were transferred to Fort Vancouver for "conditioning" and final assignment to a forest CCC camp.[82]

Fort Vancouver was the conditioning center for the Ninth Corps. Throughout the nine years of the CCC existence, the Fort processed over 40,000 young men from throughout the nation. Even though a few of the men came from southwestern Oregon, many were sent to other camps throughout the northwest and were not sent to the same area from which they came. As the reader will see, the companies who populated the CCC camps in southwestern Oregon came from states east of the Mississippi as well as California.

This meeting was carefully summarized in several local newspapers along with an editorial in *The Grants Pass Daily Courier* on April 21, 1933:

"...Twelve hundred recruited single men, earning only a dollar a day over their expenses and sending part of that back to their homes to contribute to the living of dependents, will not total any very great amount of increase for the local channels of trade even if those twelve hundred young men should work largely within the boundaries of Josephine County.

But twelve hundred young men working in the hills and the forests day after day will eat such a stock of provisions as would make the eyes of the folks at home bulge out from the very awe. Where will the government buy that immense store of staple groceries, and the great quantities of green produce and fruits and berries as will be required to keep those twelve hundred young men in good health and good spirits?

We don't know where, but we will hazard the guess that the produce and fruit and livestock will be purchased by the United States Army at the closest possible point of origin to the camps themselves.

We almost felt like complaining when the idea of reforestation work to make jobs was advanced so many months ago. Now we are glad we didn't. It just goes to show that many a dire prediction never comes true and many a bridge never has to be crossed..."[83] *(Actually, when the final tally was in, the government spent a total of around $3 per day per enrollee on local products, and for the entire State of Oregon, that added up to around $1 million per month from April to September 1933!)*

EARLY OREGON CAMPS

The first 3-Cs camp in Oregon was set up at Seattle Bar in the Rogue River Ranger District–Camp F #41, it was known as Camp Applegate. The camp was located within the Siskiyou National Forest boundary and was managed by the Medford District of the CCC. Camp F #41 was occupied by members of the Ninth Corps until 1937 (mostly all Oregon enrollees) when it was replaced by a crew from the Fifth Corps. The latter crew served until 1941 when essentially all of the work camps were closed to address World War II. Today, Seattle Bar is primarily a trailhead and horse staging area for the nearby Applegate Lake trail system and the Stein Butte/Elliott Creek Ridge OHV trail system. Another one of the early CCC camp in Oregon within the Siskiyou National Forest was located at Agness, Oregon where work began in May 1933. This is the first camp I will investigate below.[84]

A comment by the Siskiyou Forest Supervisor that appeared in the *Grants Pass Daily Courier* is reflective of the general comments that commonly appeared in the various newspapers describing the work of the CCC enrollees throughout Oregon during its nine-year tour:

"... The work to be done by the men in the camps was to be organized and supervised by the National Forest, National Park Service, State Forest and State Park Departments. So far as the National Forest Service was concerned, this was this was not such a difficult job. We had improvements plans revised from year to year, which had been on file for ten years or more. They included buildings, telephone lines,

roads, trails, range fences and water developments which we felt were needed efficiently to handle the administrative and recreational work in each forest.

So while it was a joyous surprise to see the possible completion of our improvement plans, we were not stampeded into a lot of unplanned or unnecessary work. True, it did stretch our organization and tools and equipment were hard to get in the beginning, but those difficulties have been ironed out now, and the whole machine is working smoothly.

I believe every business and industry has felt the impulse from this work and the close of 1933 finds the Siskiyou National Forest much advanced in improvements much richer in equipment and with a very low fire record for the year…"[85]

EARLY CCC CAMPS FOR THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Not only were the camps housing enrollees of the Corps located on USFS land out west, two CCC camps were allocated to the Oregon Department of Forestry and these would be located in the region covered by this book.

On May 5, 1933, Lynn E. Cronemiller, State Forester for Oregon, announced that the first two of the CCC camps to be located on the Oregon Department of Forestry lands would probably be located in Coos County in and around the 70,000-acre Elliott State Forest (located east of Reedsport) in early June of that year. These camps were also under the jurisdiction of the CCC headquarters in Medford, although for a time they were administered from the Eugene, Oregon office until that office merged into Medford.

At the time a request for a third camp in Coos County, near Coquille, was also communicated to Director Fechner. Cronemiller also suggested that possibly one or two more camps might be sighted after these first two work camps were up and running. Cronemiller went on to report that $108,000 had been allocated for the three camps. This money came from the Army Quartermaster for food and supplies to be purchased locally.[86]

Another common theme that ran through articles published in local, regional, and national newspapers about the CCC program is captured here by an interview with A. C. Jackson, assistant forester of the USFS:

"…A year in the Oregon woods has meant more to many a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps than grub, duds and exercise in the opinion of A. C. Jackson, a forester with the USFS here in of Grants Pass, Oregon.

Hundreds of eastern youths are leaving this spring at the end of their allotted enrollment period and hundreds of young men new to the woods will be coming in. The experience of living as they have in a type of country entirely strange to them has been of immeasurable value. I've been in a number of the toughest camps made up principally of boys from the south side of Chicago and from the streets of New York who had never seen mountains and woods before.

It is true at first they express everything in terms of profanity and obscenity, but I noticed on my second visit that their conversation changed, and their outlook on the world had grown brighter as their bodies had grown stronger…"[87]

BONDING WITH THE COMMUNITIES

One cannot put 200 young men in an isolated forest camp, working hard with picks and shovels all week and not expect some shenanigans when they went to town on the weekends with $5 in their pockets. Essentially, boys will be boys and many went to town for some recreation to kick up their heels a bit and let off some steam. Camp commanders often used the local camp newspapers to urge enrollees to behave themselves when on leave for an evening, and to try to establish firm positive ties with the local population. Thus the camp papers functioned as a public relations tool also.

While not in one of the local CCC newspapers, the local *Coos Bay Times* on February 5, 1934 carried the following brief article about a time when boys from two camps confronted each other in town:

"One CCC youth suffered a badly lacerated face and four others received minor bruises in a free-for-all fight on South Broadway Saturday night (Marshfield, Oregon). The melee was broken up before police arrived and the identity of the participants was not divulged by their friends who acted as unofficial referees. The brawl is said to have started when members of different camps passed disparaging remarks concerning the towns of the other group" [88]

Since the camps were generally located away from large cities, the communities where the enrollees would go for recreation had small populations and were quite different

from urban areas like Chicago, New York, or Philadelphia, where the enrollees grew up. This set in motion a formula for potential conflicts. The local young men who had grown up in the smaller CCC communities did not care for the competition presented by these rough and tumble young imports; undoubtedly many of the young girls probably did! In fact, the records show where several of the enrollees in the Coos, Curry, and western Douglas County camps indeed connected with the local population, and several stayed put, got married, and raised a family after their tour in the 3-Cs ended.

In an effort to bond better with the communities near the CCC camps, the camp newspapers would encourage enrollees to be on good behavior not only when they went to town, but also when the communities visited the camps for open house celebrations. The company commander of the CCC Camp Coos Head at Charleston, Oregon used the camp newspaper (*The Chatterbox*) in just such a manner:

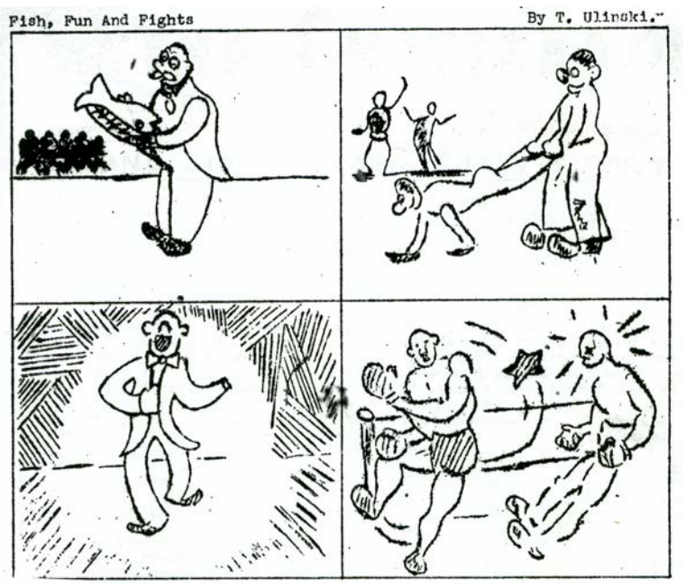
"...Today, we, company 1622, are host to the citizens of Coos Bay and surrounding territory. It is our endeavor to be entertaining and hospitable, to show to these visitors something of life in a CCC camp and above all that, although we come from a different state, we can be 'home folks' to our guests. To acquaint the people of one section to those of another section and that one part of country cannot get along without the other.

Also, it will bring to mind the work that the Civilian Conservation Corps is doing in this community. For instance, we have as one of our projects the development of Coos Head Park for the benefit and enjoyment of the citizens of Coos Bay and tourists from all over the country.

So today let us show our visitors that we can be entertaining and hospitable and let our visitors be entertained and informed thru this field day and barbeque put on jointly by the Coos Head Improvement Club of North Bend and Marshfield and Company 1622 CCC..."

Apparently the field day/open house was a roaring success, as the next month's edition of the Coos Head Camp newspaper, *The Chatterbox*, reported:

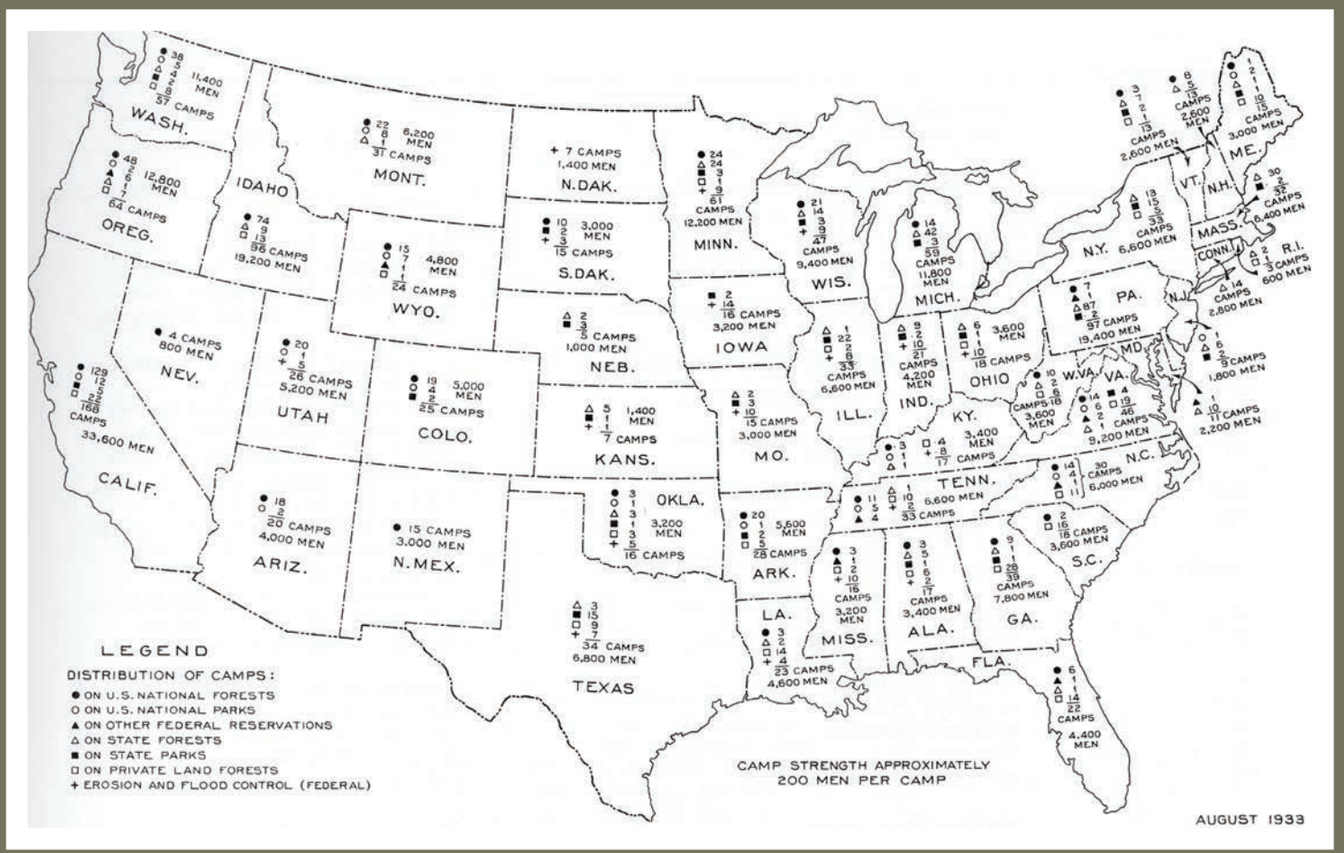
"Climaxing the day of food and fun was forty rounds of fast boxing, two wrestling matches and one mixed bout. Cheered on by visitors and inspired by fellow camp mates thirty three scrappy young men from Camp Coos Head put on a fistic exhibition that will long be remembered by local visitors. Rated as amateurs and though not in the best of physical condition, it was surprising to see the hard fought clean cut battles that these fellows put on for the public."



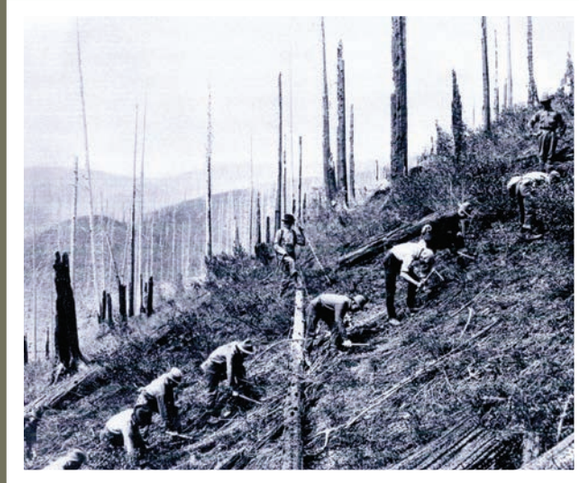
The Chatterbox gave an enrollee's perspective on the community open house at camp.

LOCAL EXPERIENCED MEN (LEM) AT THE CAMPS

In addition to the actual CCC enrollees stationed in the southern Oregon camps, Local Experienced Men (LEM) were given paid jobs in each camp: some to supervise and consult on technical matters, some for educational leadership, and some to begin to build a camp to be later completed and occupied by the enrollees. These local men in general had expertise in carpentry, plumbing, and road construction. Specialists might be brought in on temporary assignment to handle some specific issue, and some would stay for only a week or two, while many stayed on for several months in order to complete a lengthy road project, for instance. In June, 1934, some 317 LEM were assigned to the following camps: Applegate, 10; Melrose, 7; Oak Knoll, 2; Agness, 11; Dog Lake, 6; Bradford, 8; Hilt, 5; Devils' Flat, 70; Annie Springs, 65; Tyee, 3; Steamboat, 2; China Flats, 4; Wineglass, 2; South Fork of the Rogue, 1; McKinley, 2; Rand, 5; Lower Pistol River, 42; Upper Rogue River, 73; and Indian Creek, 1. The larger number of LEMs assigned to a specific camp indicated that camp was in the initial stages of construction.[89]



By April 20, 1933 the President had approved the establishment of 538 camps within the National Forest system in the 12 western states; camp enrollment would total 107,000 men. Things were moving very fast! Oregon was allotted 64 camps total—48 within the boundaries of the state's national forests; two within national park property; two camps for the Oregon Department of Forestry, and eight camps on private land, with 12,800 men total.[77] The majority of the camps to be discussed in later chapters were mostly located on the western-most ranger districts of the national forests (such as the Siskiyou National Forest in southwestern Oregon) or on leased land on private property. Map courtesy of the Idaho State Historical Society Archives and Research Center.



CCC men planting trees in a burned-over area. In total, the Corps planted over 1.2 billion seedlings during their nine years of existence. The planting of forest seedlings on the steep hills out west following logging or a forest fire was fairly new to the CCC era, but the boys from Camp Sitkum and Camp McKinley hand-planted over 300,000 forest seedlings on burnt hillsides. The seedlings came from the forest nursery constructed by Camp McKinley. Photo courtesy of NARA.

At the very outset of the Emergency Conservation Work Program (ECW) in 1933, the following camps were approved for establishment in Oregon in 1933. However only 48 of the 64 camps approved for the Oregon national forests were actually constructed during Period 1.

NATIONAL FOREST CAMPS	
Deschutes	4
Fremont	3
Malheur	3
Mt. Hood	10
Ochoco	4
Rogue River	5
Siskiyou	6
Siuslaw	4
Umatilla	3
Umpqua	6
Wallowa	3
Whitman	3
Willamette	10
Total	**64**

NATIONAL PARKS	
Crater Lake	2

STATE/COUNTY OF CAMP	
Coos/Douglas	2

PRIVATE LANDS BY COUNTY	
Clackamas	1
Columbia	1
Coos, Douglas, or Curry	1
Columbia, Tillamook	1
Deschutes	1
Klamath	1
Lane	1
Union	1
Total	**8**

GRAND TOTAL FOR OREGON 76 camps

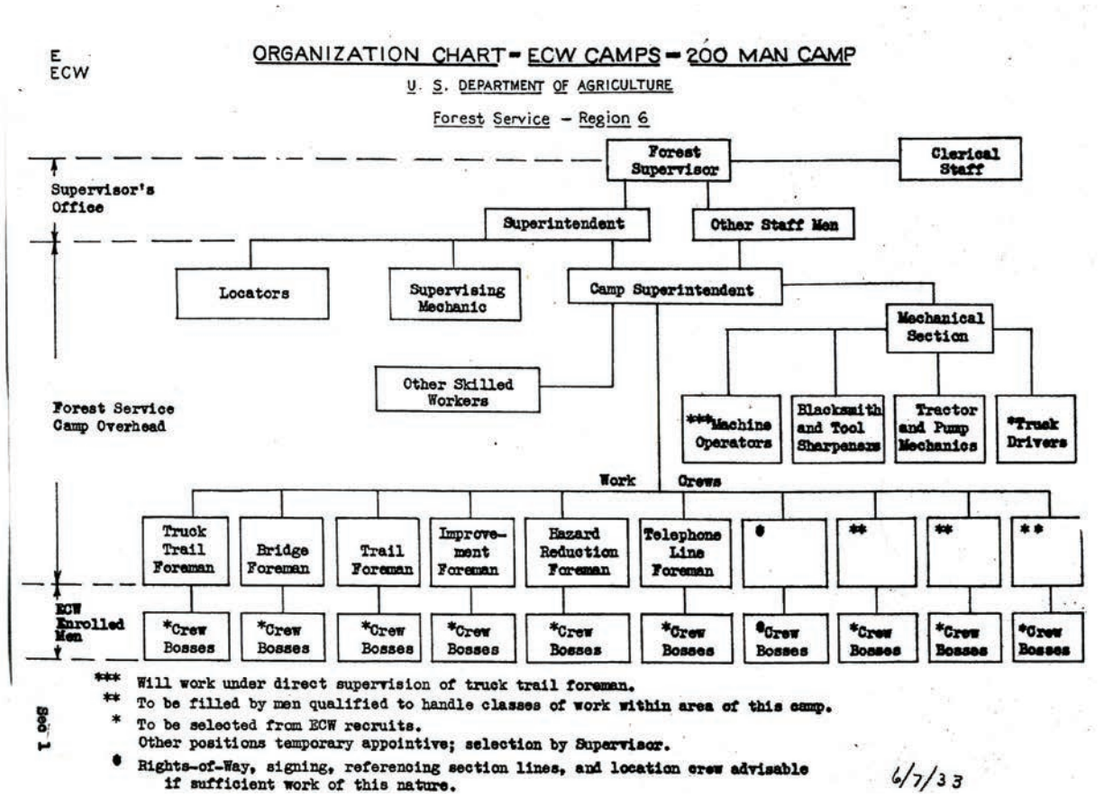
INDIAN RESERVATION:	
Warm Springs	600 men authorized*

**To be managed and handled by Indian Services, Department of the Interior.*

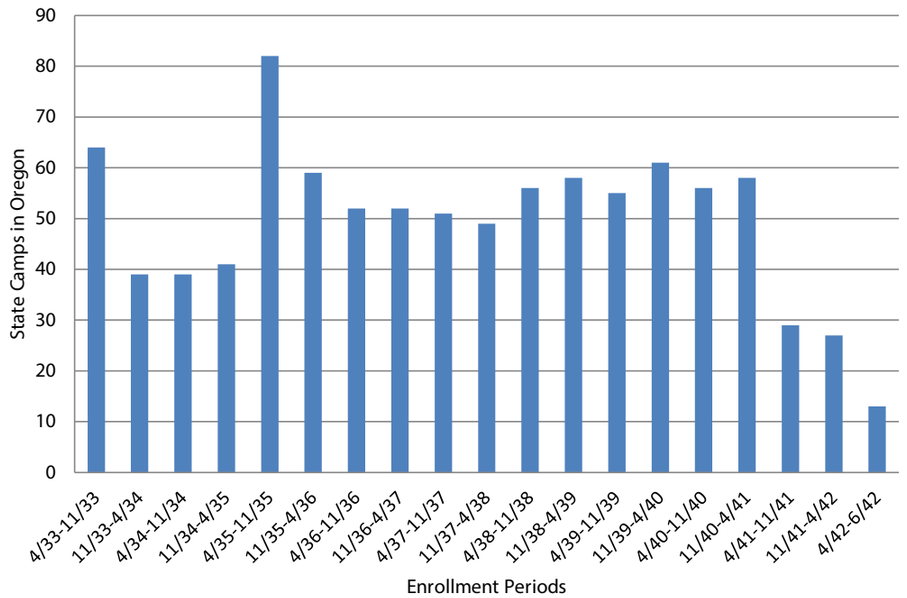
1933 road map of Oregon. The reader is directed to the back cover of the book to view a map locating each main camp discussed in this book.

Many of these Oregon camps were extremely isolated and far enough in the "backcountry" that the CCC city boys from the east marveled at their environment and the size of the trees growing on the hillsides. While the following photo may have preceded the establishment of the CCC camps by many decades, it demonstrates how many of the enrollees viewed the Oregon "wilderness"—big, steep, wet, and isolated. Some of the boys from the heart of Chicago or New York may have never seen a tree other than those in city parks. Photo courtesy of the USFS Gold Beach Ranger Station.

The map of the Medford District of the Civilian Conservation Corps as seen in the 1938 annual report for the Ninth Corps—prior to the addition of the Eugene CCC District camps.[81]



The chart above portrays the organizational structure of the Emergency Conservation Work Program (CCC) camps that existed within the Region 6 of the U.S. Forest Service, of which the Siskiyou National Forest is a portion. (Note: Region 6 refers to the USFS designation of an area that encompasses Oregon and Washington and has nothing to do with the CCC structure.) Courtesy of the National Archives in Seattle, Washington.



This chart shows the number of CCC camps in Oregon peaking during the 5th Period of enrollment—April 1935 to November 1935—when the nation's enrollment exceeded 500,000 men. At that time there were 2,652 camps in operation across the country.[78]

THE CCC IN SOUTHWESTERN OREGON

In summary, my work here will cover the following: the eight main CCC forest camps that were established in Coos County: Sitkum (Brewster Valley); Coquille (Fairview); McKinley, Bradford (Upper Rock Creek); 4-Mile (Bandon); Glenn Creek (east of Golden Falls); China Flats (12 miles south of Powers); and Coos Head near Charleston.[90]

A major camp was built at the Walker Ranch at the head of Schofield Creek in western Douglas County; it was later moved to downtown Reedsport, Oregon at the site of the current Reedsport High School.

Camps in Curry County that I cover include ones at Agness, Gold Beach, Pistol River, Port Orford, Humbug Mountain, and Cape Sebastian.

Camps at the edge of the geography covered by this book were built at Elkton, Gunter (north of Drain), Reston (across the divide from Brewster Valley), Melrose, Tiller, Rand, and Tyee.

Throughout the spring and summer of 1933, multiple contingents of men began arriving by special trains into Marshfield, Roseburg, and Medford, Oregon to be transported by army trucks to their assigned CCC camps.[91] Within a year after President Roosevelt launched the 3-C program, the number of enrollees working in the Siskiyou National Forest and on other property in southwestern Oregon in general had grown markedly. By the fall of 1934, the Southern Oregon CCC District, headquartered in Medford, had 27 camps in operation at a maximum strength of 5,400 men.[92]

As we take a more detailed look into the CCC camps that were researched for this book, the reader should keep in mind a few issues that impacted my research and coverage of each camp.

First, as I've mentioned earlier, the enrollment of men in CCC was predicated on a six-month term called a Period. The enrollees generally mustered out in Periods that ended in March and September, and were replaced by new recruits shortly thereafter. Each of the camp newspapers would dedicate a column or two to the departing enrollees and the incoming ones. Due to the number of camps and volume of camp papers reviewed for this book, I have chosen to omit many of those touching tributes to the departing enrollees. Those who re-enlisted for a second, third or fourth tour in the Corps were also singled out in each camp newspaper. Again my intention is not to create an index of the names of men who served, but to describe each camp and the local projects the men undertook.

Second, the military officers assigned to each camp would rotate in and out of the camps on a different schedule than the enrollees. For the most part, these officers were highly regarded and each time one left, the camp newspaper would write a tribute to that individual. Again, I chose to omit most of these comments from this book.

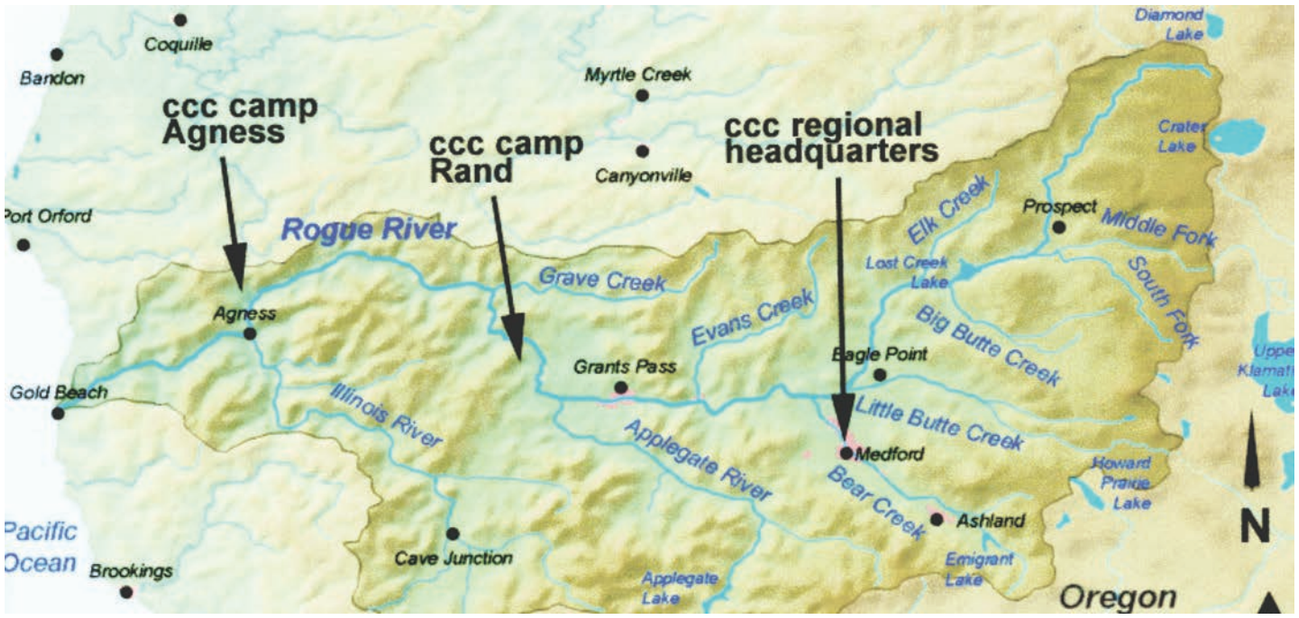
Third, the LEMs (Local Experienced Men) would rotate in and out on an even different schedule—generally associated with the type of work the camp was undertaking. These men often simply transferred to another nearby camp, but the newspapers always gave them a hardy bon voyage too. The details of the wonderful work performed by these local men were really remarkable, but again too voluminous to include here.

Fourth, the main camps that fall within the geographic boundary of this book are discussed in alphabetical order attempting to cover the landscape when each camp started and when it ended. Those side or spike camps associated with a main camp are noted. The other camps that in some way are connected with the primary camps within western Douglas, Coos, and Curry counties are discussed after the main camps are described. These too are in alphabetical order. On to the camps!

AGNESS CAMP

Location: Section 18, Township 37 South, Range 11 West, Willamette Meridian, Curry County, Oregon
Agness Camp # F–46; Company # 964
(May 1933–October 1937)

A man by the name of John Billings was the original settler on the site of the CCC camp at Agness.[94] Billings was a miner who moved from Klamath Falls in 1868 to the mouth of the Illinois River where it joins the Rogue along with his wife Adeline (a Karuk Indian) and their three children. By then, the Rogue River Indian War of 1855 had abated and miners poured into the Rogue River Valley in search of gold. The record is silent as to how long Billings stayed at Agness, but 25 years later he settled on and built the Rogue River Ranch which is now a national historic site and museum.[94]



Camp Agness was located on the south side of the Rogue River at the confluence with the Illinois River. The Rogue River starts high in the Cascade Mountains and travels a distance of roughly 215 river-miles emptying into the Pacific Ocean at Gold Beach. Several Civilian Conservation Camps were located along its course with the Agness camp being the most isolated.[93]

BUILDING THE CAMP

The CCC camp at Agness was located 32 miles east of the coast Highway 101, and when it was first manned, it could only be reached by boat travelling up the Rogue River from Gold Beach, Oregon. It was one of the first 3-C camps established in southwestern Oregon, and for quite some time, it appears to have been a tent camp with only modest facilities. It was probably one of the most difficult camps to reach in the nation as there was no road to it. It would retain that reputation until the roads to Gold Beach and to Powers were completed some years later by the men of Camp Agness and China Flats.

The initial contingent of enrollees arrived at the Agness Camp site in May 1933 following their training at Fort Lewis, Washington. To get the camp up and running, the Corps employed several residents of Gold Beach to provide the camp with supplies. From what I could discern from my research, it appears that the original newspaper at Camp Agness was the *Siskiyou Stag* and as such was one of the first camp papers in the Medford CCC district. Sadly, however, I was unable to locate any copies of the early camp newspapers.

HOW AGNESS GOT ITS NAME

As I began digging into the background of the CCC camps I became curious as to why the little community of Agness was spelled with an extra "s"—and hence the camp name also. The answer was printed in the Agness Camp paper a couple years after the permanent camp was created in 1935. Apparently, there was an old-timer by the name of Johnny Fry who lived in the old ranger station on Shasta Costa Creek about three miles or so above the camp. He had arrived in the area in 1867. He and other family members had heard that there were a lot of open grasslands up and down some of the Oregon rivers and they started a business of raising mules for pack animals, as that was the only real way of moving things up and down the Oregon coast.[98]

According to the story, Agness Aubrey was his niece, and her father, Fry's half-brother, was the first postmaster at the site of the current town. By the late 1890s there were enough people scattered up and down the Rogue and Illinois rivers that the government decided to put in a local post office. But there was no name for the general area where most of the people lived, and so Fry stated that what more logical approach was there but to simply name the town after the postmaster's daughter?

Possibly the young lady to the far left of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Fry attended some of the dances at Camp Agness and Illahe. The Fry Family lived at Illahe. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station at Gold Beach, Oregon.[99]

Fry went on to elaborate on some more historical tidbits in the interview. He claimed that the word "Illahe" meant "land" in the jargon language between the local Indians and the Hudson Bay trappers who worked along the local rivers seeking beaver pelts.

Further, as to the naming of nearby Lobster Creek, Fry went on to say that there was an enterprising young man that came up the Rogue looking for business opportunities. He stopped first at a flat spot alongside the river, and the ground was covered with acorns from the abundant oak trees growing there. He decided to start a hog farm with the intention of shipping his pork products downriver to Gold Beach and then to points afar. On his way back down the river with the dream in his head, the young man stopped at a side stream flowing into the Rogue and saw a myriad of little crawfish—which he thought were baby lobsters. He forgot about his hog farm and figured he would raise large lobsters for the western market. Nothing became of either idea, but the name Lobster Creek stuck.[98]

PROJECTS AT CAMP AGNESS

As the Agness Camp got up and running, probably one of the most monumental tasks undertaken by the army was the movement of a large Cletrac tractor with grader attachment (weighing slightly less than 16,000 pounds), up the Rogue River from Gold Beach to Agness—remember, there were no roads to the camp at that time. The first scow selected for the project turned out to be too light and when the Cletrac was loaded, the force of the water from the outside caused the boards to split apart, ruining the boat and almost tipping the tractor into the river. The Cletrac was quickly unloaded. A heavier scow was found, the tractor loaded, and the trip began on June 11, 1933. At first two boats were hooked together to pull the scow, but they had insufficient power to navigate the Rogue's rapids, so a third boat was called upon to help. The project was undertaken by the Fry brothers, and it took from dawn until nightfall to make the trip.

This journey was of such novelty, that the Curry County Reporter newspaper in Gold Beach recorded each maneuver on its front page:

"...By the time the afternoon was nearly gone and dusk was beginning to settle over the canyon, the riffles were growing more difficult to ascend and progress was made with great difficulty, attended with considerable motor trouble from the over-worked engines. Just as darkness was settling down in earnest, Crooked Riffle was entered with all three motors working at full speed. The scow was swinging rather wildly in the boiling current when suddenly the two boats that were lashed together halfway back on the towline slipped up on the rope of the lead boat and got all tangled up. There was nothing to do while but make for the shore and get the lines untangled.

While the fouled lines were being straightened out the scow was swinging from the eddy back into the current and was dipping rather crazily with water coming over the sides and the crew bailing for all they were worth.

By the time the lines were untangled and made fast again, it was pitch dark and the rest of the journey was made without the benefit of any sight of nearby objects. Points on the canyon's rim were used a points of reference. It was here that the instincts and thorough knowledge of the boatmen came into play, the most difficult part of the trip with no chance to tie up for the night was still ahead.

The Fry brothers kept on and with only one or two exceptions managed to keep exactly in the boat channel for the net hour and a half when Agness was reached. The feat would have been impossible for anyone not thoroughly familiar with the Rogue.

Everyone on board felt a great relief when the lights of the forest crew on the bar at the mouth of the Illinois River came into view. A large force was on hand to build

The Golden Grizzly (a later newspaper from Camp Agness) frequently mentioned the dances held in the old log cabin school house at Oak Flat every other Saturday. As quoted in the paper: "The ladies found themselves immensely popular, being so outnumbered by the "stags." In fact, the Baseball Hall of Fame inductee, Bobby Doerr, met his wife, Monica, at one of those Saturday night dances. Its rural atmosphere apparently was a real novelty to the "city slicker enrollees" from San Francisco and Los Angeles. As their tours ended and the men at Camp Agness rotated in and out, it appears that new recruits mostly came from the southern California area.[97] Courtesy of the Saga of the CCC book.

Without a doubt, the one thing that the boys remembered about their trip to the CCC camp at Agness was their river ride from Gold Beach. They were transported in a 26-foot boat that could skim the rapids and sand bars through the wild and steep canyon walls of the Rogue River. I'm sure that the minds and hearts of those young recruits from the east changed from feeling absolute fear to amazement and then to fascination as they plowed up the rapids in the wooden boat, viewing the huge trees lining the hills on each side. They knew their lives were in the hands of the boat skipper and all they could do was watch the incredible scenery going by. The Rogue River, ca. 1933 near Camp Agness. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station at Gold Beach, Oregon.

This photo is one of the original boats that took mail (and supplies) from the CCC camp at Agness to Gold Beach and back again. Packages (parcel post) were delivered to the CCC West Fork Camp near Medford, where they then were transferred to a string of pack mules that made the 48-mile overland trek to Agness, where the packages would be offloaded from the mules, delivered to the expectant enrollees, or placed in the mail boat for the final journey downstream to Gold Beach, dropping off packages to residences along the way. The process also worked in reverse. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station at Gold Beach, Oregon.

Top: The above photo shows the initial camp setup at Camp Agness, ca. 1933. On May 20, 1933, twenty-nine local men (LEMs) from the Grants Pass, Oregon area were sent to Agness, Oregon to begin preparations for the construction of a CCC camp at that locale. Shortly thereafter, an additional 21 men who were listed on the government relief rolls at Grants Pass were be sent to supplement the work.[95] Photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station at Gold Beach, Oregon.

Bottom: The "Parade Grounds" at Camp Agness, ca. 1933. It would not be until May of '35 that the permanent buildings were completely constructed; 80,000 board feet of lumber were hauled up the Rogue River by boat from Gold Beach for the construction.[96] The trip was 32 miles one way by boat and it took all day to make a round-trip supply run to Camp Agness. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station at Gold Beach, Oregon.

up a cribbing for the tractor to climb out on and when its operator had the big machine safely out on to the bar, the adventurous part of the trip was over."[100]

In addition to the Cletrac, the local boat company, along with the heavier scow, moved trucks, compressors, graders, lumber, pipe, and many other supplies up the river from Gold Beach during the early spring of 1933 when the river was high and the boats could navigate the rapids more easily.[101]

Aside from getting their camp buildings completed and operational, the enrollees were assigned a project to build a roadway from their camp at Agness to the nearby community of Illahe. The road was built through the face of a large cliff, which at one spot involved a side cut of 40 feet of practically solid rock. When the cliff was being drilled prior to blasting with dynamite, a hanging platform had to be erected from which to work. A large rope was tied to a tree near the staging location and the workers used the rope to climb from the bluff to their positions. In addition to the heavy rockwork on the road, the crew had to bridge a deep canyon some 70 feet above the river.

Also in the first year Camp Agness was fully operational, its enrollees began constructing an airplane landing strip across the river from the camp on what was then known as the Jergen's place. As the camp came up to full strength, trails were started along the Illinois River, on the north side of the Rogue River, and one up Shasta Costa Creek.

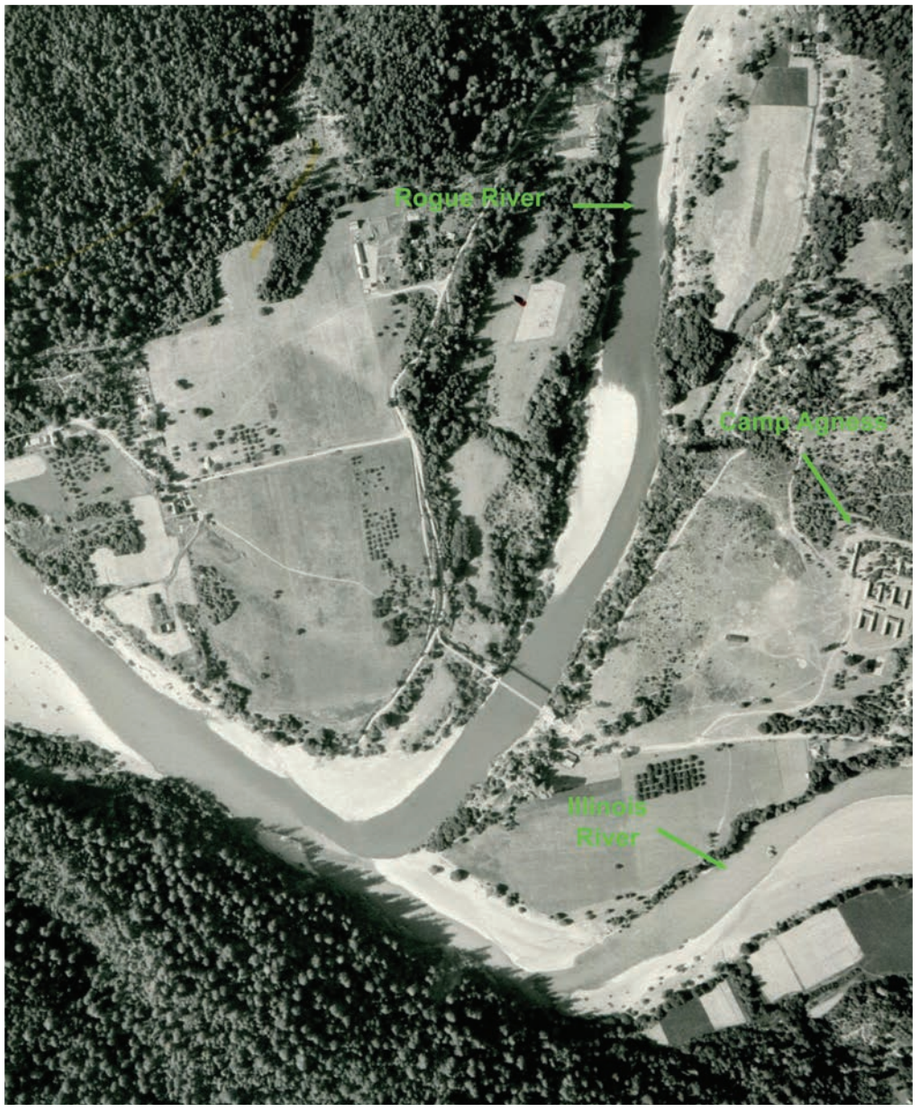
On October 10, 1933 the main force of Agness enrollees moved to a spike camp at Humbug Mountain for the winter. Here they would widen and install turnouts on the road from the main coast highway (Highway 101) to the McGribble Ranger Station on Bald Mountain. The Agness Camp would sit idle until the summer of '34 at which time there were five buildings erected, many of which were unfinished. With the camp in somewhat disarray due to the continued building construction, and distance to any town for recreation, tempers of the enrollees were often on a short fuse. They were not able to eat their first meal in the new mess hall until August of '35. No wonder so many men groused about wanting to "hang it up" and go back home. They were really experiencing the Oregon "wilderness."

On August 3, 1935, Company # 1992 put out their first Agness Camp newspaper: the *Golden Grizzly*. The paper contained some of the same general themes as other papers published by other CCC camps, which gives us a glimpse into their camp life—reporting that the fire season had started and the USFS had recently conducted training in the

The above sketch was taken from the book Saga of CCC by John D. Guthrie, 1942.[66]

The Cletrac tractor building a roadway near Agness, Oregon ca., 1933. Photo courtesy of Ms. Alice DeSoto.

A blacksmith came right to the job site on the Agness-Gold Beach roadway to fabricate material for the construction work; ca. 1935. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station at Gold Beach, Oregon.



Top: Aerial photo of Camp Agness showing Rogue and Illinois rivers.

Bottom left: Camp Agness 1935. Photo courtesy of Alice DeSoto.

Bottom Right: The enrollees at Camp Agness; ca. 1936. Photo courtesy of the Curry County Historical Society.

With the roadway from Agness to Gold Beach finally completed in '35, the camp boys could travel to enter boxing tournaments. Photo courtesy of Donna Gould.

proper and safe way to construct hand fire lines; classroom training was being offered in what the enrollees called the "Hickory Stick University"; the crew was also working on a trail between Wild Horse Lookout and Snow Camp Lookout; and a chaplain had visited the camp given a brief "get acquainted" meeting in the unfinished recreation hall with the enrollees.[97]

During this same time frame and even before the road from Agness to Gold Beach was placed on the drawing boards, movement was afoot in Washington DC to construct a roadway all the way from Grants Pass to Gold Beach crossing and re-crossing the Rogue River as necessary with bridges, and essentially hugging the edges of the river gorge. Even the local granges and chambers of commerce from Josephine and Curry counties got into the fray by sending a petition to Washington, requesting federal highway funds to build such a road.

The USFS objected to the plan, however, as their road budget for that year was approximately $5,000 per mile and a truck road through what is now known is the Wild and Scenic River section of the Rogue would greatly exceed that cost—one estimate set the figure at $10,000,000—a massive amount of money back then. The USFS had already planned a ridgeline road to connect the coast with the Grants Pass region. But even as early as 1933, there was strong public sentiment to protect the rougher portion of the Rogue for wilderness designation—even though no formal primitive designation had yet to be declared.[102]

In September 1935, Oregon's Governor, Charles A. Martin, visited Camp Agness along with some 75 dignitaries (and spouses) from various agencies in Curry and Josephine Counties. The group travelled to Agness from Gold Beach aboard several boats for the beautiful ride up the Rogue River. The camp was all "spiffed up" for the visit and apparently the governor made a special effort to congratulate the men of Company 1992 on the fine appearance of the camp and the general work they were doing on behalf of the CCC.

The purpose of the dignitaries' visit was to determine if the area east of Agness should be preserved in its primitive state or whether the government should build a road through the area for general public access. It was probably the largest group of high officials to assemble in Curry County up to that point in time. There were representatives of the Pacific Northwest Regional Planning Commission as well as local planning personnel from the two counties. It appears that a cursory meeting was held, but no decisions were made.[98]

Thankfully, a portion of the Rogue Canyon was preserved for posterity. The area features 33 miles of class II and III rapids, and includes Rainey Falls (a class V), and beautiful scenery at Mule Creek Canyon and Blossom Bar, both class IV rapids. The wild section is free of roads and is accessed only by trail and boat.

FUN TIME

With the road between Agness and Gold Beach finally open in 1935, the boys from Camp Agness were excited about the public entertainment and events on the Fourth of July celebration in town. Several enrollees signed up for the boxing competition, and as the camp newspaper reported, the $24 prize offered undoubtedly contributed to their interest. The following month's camp paper extolled the success of the Agness boxers during the July 4th spectacle, winning the 135-pound class as well as the 140- and 160-pound levels.

In the fall of '35, the camp got a real boost when one of the Hollywood, California radio stations (KHX) dedicated an entire program to the "boys up at Camp Agness," way up in Agness, Oregon. While none of the enrollees at the camp actually heard the broadcast, several got word later from letters written from home that they were now from the "famous Camp Agness," known worldwide!

Later that year, the camp's army commander decided to have an open house for the communities around Agness and sent out the following invitation:

"The officers and men of Camp Agness Company # 1992, CCC, take this opportunity to cordially welcome our neighbors, the people of Agness, Illahe and vicinity, to our celebration commemorating the completion of our camp, and thank you for the friendly interest you have shown in our activities.

We have been so busy the past summer building the camp along with our other projects that there has not been much opportunity to really get acquainted. With the completion of the camp and the end of the fire season in sight, it is planned to have numerous entertainments in camp this winter to which you are all most welcome.

Many of you have actively assisted in handling materials and supplies and in the erection of the buildings, so you have a personal interest in our good looking camp."

One must assume that the open house was a success, even though I could find no camp newspaper that followed the event. When a group of enrollees' time in the Corps was about to end, typically the camp newspaper would reminisce about the time the boys spent at Camp Agness. The October 1935 *Golden Grizzly* carried the following message:

"...We all look forward, more or less, to the time when we will leave the Civilian Conservation Corps to resume our interrupted way of civil life. Yet, somehow, although perhaps only subconsciously, one is rather glad there was a Depression—a Roosevelt—and the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Everything in the CCC hasn't been honey and almonds, it isn't anywhere, for that matter, but there are a few aspects which we cannot deny have been real assets and two in particular—friendships formed and educational improvement. The educational phase is of unquestioned value. Perhaps you might have completed your high school education which circumstances prevented in your civilian life, or perhaps even prepared you for entrance into a college or university.

At any rate, you must feel, as we do that camp life has not merely been a place to 'mark time,' but a place of real value and benefit to you."

That year, the camp also provided the departing enrollees with an autograph book that could be used to get comments and signatures from their officers and fellow enrollees as a souvenir of their time at Agness.

In May 1937, the Medford District CCC newspaper carried the following interesting article about Camp Agness:

OLD TIMER VISITS CAMP ON FIRST TRIP IN 21 YEARS

"Eighty seven years of Fate's buffetings have not dimed the bright light expectancy in Chris Jacher's old eyes. He still looks upon the world as being full of promise. A short time ago he saw his first motion picture at this camp. His comment, "I never dreamed that such a thing was possible. It was a wonderful experience."

Chris Jacher has for 34 years lived in the Rogue River country above Agness. For the past 21 years he lived alone on his place ¼ mile above the Brushy Bar Guard Station. During the 21 years he was not off his place for any reason. His groceries, enough for his simple needs were delivered by boat from the Rilea store at Agness, whose owners were Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Tilera, parents of Brig. General Thomas E. Rilea of the Oregon National Guard.

Recently, Jacher was prevailed upon by CCC men of this camp to come down to Agness and see a movie. While there he visited Fileas for the first time in 21 years. Always gallant, he assured Mrs. Rilea she didn't appear a day older than when he last saw her.

Because he is an old man, and worthy, Coos County authorities thought he should apply for government relief but he refused so the county let him work occasionally on trail construction. The severe winter just passed caught him with [a] shortage [of] fuel, so he burned his ceiling, hen house and all spare lumber to keep from freezing.

He emerged this spring as chipper as ever, though, and enjoyed his visit to the camp and the general store. He said the camp buildings looked like palaces compared to his modest shack."

AGNESS CAMP # F - 45 COMPANY # 2523

(October 1937–unknown (perhaps 1941)

Sadly, from a researcher's point of view, there must have been a hiatus in the printing of the *Golden Grizzly* when Company # 1992 left Camp Agness in October of '35 and the printing of the camp newspaper under Company # 2523 on June 15, 1937. The latter company resurrected the original name of the Agness Camp paper—the *Siskiyou Stag*, but no explanation could be found for the change. Dr. Alexander Raxlen, former staff member of the *Siskiyou Stag*, a past CCC enrollee at Camp Agness wrote of his time there:

"...I learned to respect a great many of the boys for their wholesome outlook on life. To me, a period of duty in the CCC

represents a good reconditioning of the body and mind and I am sure that a great many employers feel the same way…"

…You are to be congratulated for your willingness to help your folks back home by our monthly contribution to their welfare…"

ROADWAY AN ONGOING MAJOR PROJECT

In reading through numerous editions of the Camp Agness newspapers, it became readily apparent that the road between Powers (the CCC camp at China Flats) and Agness was a major focus for both camps. References kept popping up indicating that side camps were constantly being set up along the route during the summer months to continually improve the roadway. It was prone to landslides in the winter, and so summers were devoted to grading and smoothing the roadway for public use.

During the summer months, there was considerable traffic on the roadway, and on August 15, 1937 the project experienced some excitement: dust swirling up from a truck travelling on the road caused a false fire alarm, which sent three fire crews from Agness dashing up the roadway toward Billings Creek. The lookout at Iron Mountain had called in the alert, but another fire lookout that had a better view of the area called the fire alarm off and the crew returned to camp.[103]

Later that year, the camp was involved in building a low-water bridge across the Illinois River near Oak Flats. Piling was driven into the riverbed with the planking installed about three feet above the level of the river at that time. It was one of the few low-water crossing bridges built by the CCC.

BACK AT CAMP

Back at camp, other interesting projects were afoot. When the forestry office building was vacated at Camp Agness, the enrollees excitedly remodeled the quarters into a gym and clubroom so they could box year round. (The camps and enrollees were masters at recycling: during the previous summer, the recreation hall located at the spike camp at Humbug Mountain had been torn down and the lumber reused to remodel the forestry building.)

Agness Camp; ca. 1937. Several of the boys at the camp in '38 were from the towns of Myrtle Point and Powers.[105] Photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station at Gold Beach, Oregon.

One of the more bizarre recreational activities in any of any CCC camps was the construction of a "miniature" golf course at Camp Agness. It was started in midwinter of '37 and work continued sporadically as the weather permitted. The other less physically demanding sport was the enrollees' use of the swimming hole on the Illinois River. It became so popular that the camp commander required the "buddy system" when then men took a dip, and posted a lifeguard at the hole every evening.

As mentioned, there was a physician in each of the CCC camps throughout the nation, and Agness was no different. What follows is an edited sample of how one doctor at Camp Agness felt on his departure:

"…I remember the day when I came to Agness, clutching the side of the boat. I gingerly stood up and regarded the stretch of land. It certainly wasn't any compliment to the girl to have such a waste named after her, I thought. A few minutes later we rolled into camp and I met his Nibs—the Company Commander—Lt. Rosenbaum, also known as "gone with the wind".

From the very start, I couldn't help liking the place and the people in it. The boys always did their best to be entertaining…

It has been the nicest year of my life. With much regret, I am leaving shortly, with nothing but the pleasantest memories and the best wishes for Agness and all my friends here…"[104]

Gold Beach Side Camp; date unknown. Photo courtesy of the Curry County Historical Museum.

The enrollees from the Gold Beach Camp are seen here building the USFS Gold Beach Ranger Station. Note the fine rockwork. The ranger station was put on the National Registry of Historic Buildings on April 8, 1986. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station at Gold Beach, Oregon.

He was replaced by a young physician from New York. Dr. Edward Wolf became the Agness Camp surgeon in August of '37. He had travelled extensively and received his medical degree from the University of Zurich in Switzerland. When he completed his residency he determined that he needed some real-world experience, so he signed up for a tour in the CCC and got assigned to Agness. Upon his arrival at the camp, he probably had the same general reaction as his predecessor, or maybe even a little worse given his world travelling experience. As such, Dr. Wolf only stayed at camp Agness for one month! The paper was silent for the reason behind his departure. Apparently camp life was not for everyone.

Keeping track of all the "side or spike" camps associated with each main camp within the geographic territory of this book turned out to be a much larger challenge than one might think. The only real source of information about the summer side camps were the camp newspapers themselves or the inspection reports. In the case of Camp Agness, a major side camp was constructed at Gold Beach, Oregon and was manned by the enrollees from Agness. It was probably better described as the winter quarters for the men from Agness, as the size of the Gold Beach camp was quite large. Their main job was to build the USFS Ranger station located at the south end of town. It was said that the rock work at the Gold Beach Ranger was some of the best in the nation—and it is still visible, functioning, and in good condition today. The Gold Beach Camp itself was dismantled in October 1937.

GOLD BEACH "SIDE" CAMP COMPANY # 2523 FROM AGNESS

(October 17, 1935–October 1937)

Location: Section 1, Township 37 South, Range 15 West, Willamette Meridian, Curry County, Oregon
From the records at the Gold Beach Ranger Station, I was able to pinpoint the exact location of the Gold Beach "side" camp located on leased property as described above. The property lay west of the Oregon Coast highway with approximately 726 feet of highway frontage. Apparently there were issues with the lessor, as the acting forest supervisor of the Siskiyou National Forest wrote the following note on February 19, 1937:

"*This camp is of early construction and it is doubtful if the lease on the camp can be renewed after 1938. While the location is good for the work planned, it was necessary to use spike camps out of the main camp in order to cover work in the area covered by this camp. We show that the camp was constructed for 200 men, but this was under the old standards; it would only take care of about 100 men if they revert to the single bunks instead of double. We recommend that this camp be abandoned if there is no possibility of securing additional camps on the Siskiyou for a period of two or three years.*"

CAPE SEBASTIAN SIDE CAMP # SP–1 COMPANY # 1652 FROM AGNESS

(September 1933–April 1936)

Location: Section 36, Township 37 South, Range 15 West, Willamette Meridian, Curry County, Oregon

In September 1933, the State Forester, Lynn Cronemiller, announced that Cape Sebastian (locally known as Hunter Head) would be developed as a state park and that during the winter of '33–'34 the construction would be done by enrollees from the CCC camp at the Gold Beach.[106] By March of 1934, a 900-foot of roadway was built into the park, despite the driving rains that peppered the Oregon coast. The camp newspaper reported that there had been in excess of 140 inches of rainfall from October through March of that season—source unknown and very unlikely.

The December 1934 the Sebastian Camp newspaper, *The Sea Horse*, carried an article that portrayed a rather unique educational opportunity at the Camp:

> *"…Under the skillful tuition of Arthur Dorn, local lawyer, who is conducting a class in the study of law in the court house in Gold Beach, the members of the camp are learning the mysteries that surround the laws of the State of Oregon. Holding the class three times per week, he is taking the class through a regular course of law study.*
>
> *During the course, Mr. Dorn promotes mock trials on the various subjects that are in the courts throughout the county. In these trials, members of the class act as the lawyers, and the members of a court. His class is very popular with the boys and if the class continues to grow, they will have to find another classroom…"*[107]

In the same edition of *The Sea Horse* it appears that the camp newspaper had received national recognition and that colleges throughout the United States were requesting copies of the paper. During my research, I could only find four sequential copies of *The Sea Horse*—and these came from the Southern Illinois University, whose archivist had no idea as to why they even had them! In reading them it was quite obvious that the writing was far better and more professional than any other camp newspaper researched for this book. The paper was also unusual because it charged 5 cents per copy and had local advertisements from businesses in Gold Beach.

In January 1935, the camp received its first moving picture projector, purchased with funds from the earnings of the CCC camp store. A cycle of films were released by the district headquarters in Medford to each of its camps that had movie projectors. For the month of January, 1935, for example, the three films that rotated into Camp Sebastian were "The American," "Peck's Bad Boy," and "the Covered Wagon."

Like many of the other camps, Sebastian had its own basketball team, and luckily, the principal of the Gold Beach High School had given permission for the camp team to practice in the school's gymnasium. The first basketball game for the Sebastian quintet was against a team called Brushes Creek (possibly a team from the side camp at Humbug Mountain) and the final score was 17 to 10—meager when compared to today's basketball scores. Of note was the fact that the center for the Brushes Creek squad scored 15 of the winners' 17 points!

By now the reader is quite familiar with the pay for the enrollees of the CCC—$30 per month with $25 going to their families back home. The camp papers often carried poems or stories written by enrollees; the following poem was found in the March 23, 1935 edition of *The Sea Horse* and describes one's feelings about pay day:

C.C.C. Pay Day

Little bank roll ere we part
Let me press you to my heart
All the month I worked for you
I've been faithful, you've been true

Little bank roll in a day
You and I will go away
To find some gay festive spot
I'll return—but you will not

BRADFORD CAMP

Location: Section 5, Township 30 South, Range 10 West, Willamette Meridian, Curry County, Oregon

BRADFORD CAMP # GF-3-COMPANY #979

(October 1933–September 20, 1937)

The story of Camp Bradford begins when two men came West in the mid-1920s and started constructing a "dude ranch/resort" at the junction of Upper Rock Creek and the Middle Fork of the Coquille River. Eight craftsmen were

brought from Wisconsin to select the most perfect Douglas fir logs and form them into the first of a never fully realized dream to construct many "dude ranches" along the Middle Fork of the Coquille. When the Depression hit, the men went broke and left the log structure to set idle until the 3-Cs came along in 1933, and Company # 979 moved in. The lodge became the barracks for the men; ca. 1934.

On October 4, 1933 the Coos Forest Protective Association entered into a lease agreement with Mr. Lynn. R. Houghington for the property and a large building where Camp Bradford was to be located. On October 19, 1933, a special train with twelve passenger coaches arrived in Marshfield, Oregon, carrying men from a CCC camp near Baker, Oregon. They were on their way to their winter quarters on the coast at camps Sitkum and Bradford.[108] The lease was renewed with A. L. Houghington (wife of Lynn Houghington) on April 1, 1935 for another six months.

BRADFORD PROJECTS

During the first two years that Camp Bradford existed, the men of the camp were instrumental in building 35 miles of truck trails at Live Oak and removed and reconstructed some 40 miles of abandoned railroad grade, which opened the roadway to truck traffic. (They had a side camp at Buck Springs while they worked on the Live Oak truck trail.) They also reduced the hazards of driving along Route 38 from the coast by removing dangerous tree snags from 17 miles of roadway.[109]

BRADFORD BUILDING ON THE MOVE

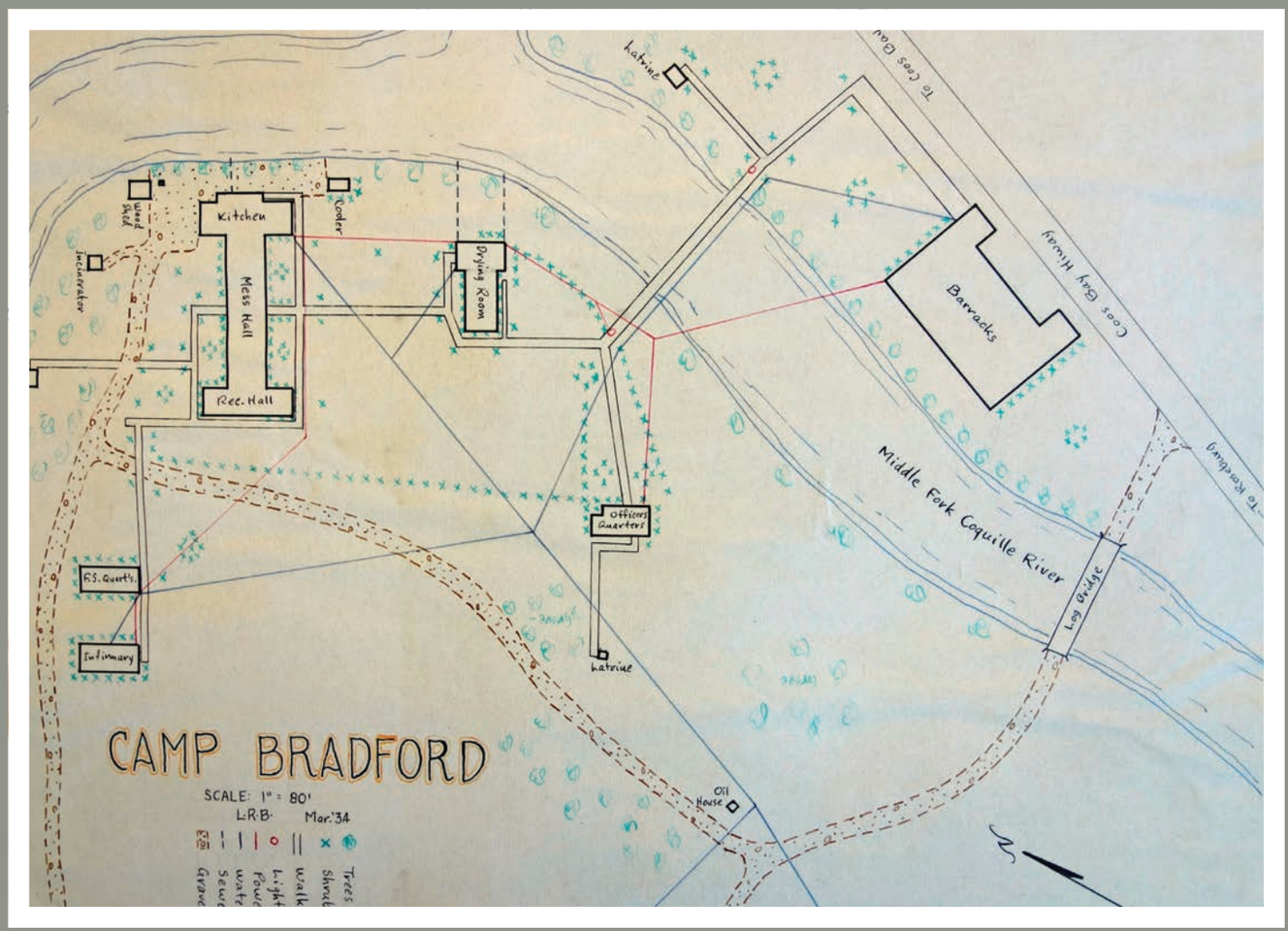
In 1936 Camp Bradford was abandoned and once again the old log structure set idle. That is until a Mr. Hugh Sherwood fell in love with the building, bought it, and took it apart around 1945—log by log (1,500 logs that were supposedly so precisely constructed that no chinking was required), and transported it all to Yachats, Oregon where it was reassembled into a huge hotel. The contract provided that Sherwood had six months in which to remove the structure from the old CCC camp site.

As they began dismantling the building, Mrs. Marian M. Irwin joined the small work crew and it was her job to keep track of the location of each log on paper and then identify it with crayon marks on both ends of the log. It must

The Camp Bradford resort, used by the CCC. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album).

Sign identifying Camp Bradford # GF–5 Company 979, ca. 1934. Photo courtesy of Richard Hansen collection at Oregon State University Archives.

Bird's eye view of Camp Bradford; ca 1934-35. Note the large resort/barracks structure at the left side of the photo. The road between Myrtle Point and Roseburg runs just in front of the lodge building. Photo courtesy of the NARA.



This map shows the general layout of camp Bradford as drawn in March 1934. Map courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

The crew at Camp Bradford heading off to work. The road between Myrtle Point and Roseburg is on the left and the camp barracks (the old lodge) is on the right, ca. 1934. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

Walking bridge between the barracks and main camp buildings across the Middle Fork of the Coquille River. The kitchen and part of the mess hall can be seen on the right; ca. 1934. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

The wooden log-stringer bridge across the Middle Fork of the Coquille River, to provide vehicle access the main camp buildings from the Myrtle Point–Roseburg road, ca. 1934. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

Middle: The camp enrollees in the mess hall at camp Bradford. The kitchen is at the far end of the hall, ca. 1934. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

Left: The officers' quarters at camp Bradford, ca. 1934. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

BEFORE THIS rustic building at Yachats became Sherwood lodge, it stood for two decades in secluded mountain region 120 miles away, near Oregon's southern coastline. Piece by piece, entire 1500-log building was moved and then assembled at Yachats. Lodge was intended to be exclusive dude ranch.

This is interesting. We didn't know the story when we ate our anniversary breakfast here, Sept 8th, this year.

Oregon's Transplanted Lodge

Sherwood lodge at Yachats was moved log by log 120 miles from its woodland setting at Remote

By TOM BRUBECK

"But there's one log left." The cry quashed a rising vic-

the structure was completely rebuilt, a single timber remained on the ground.

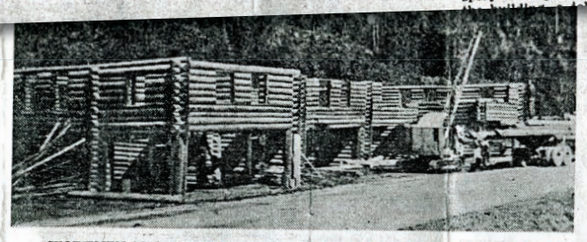
HUGH SHERWOOD studied a wrinkled chart and looked at the building, soon to become a 32-bedroom hotel. The maverick log, No. 513, found its home on the south wall.

This was in 1946, when Sherwood Lodge had its beginning on the Oregon coast. Four years ago Memorial day, its doors opened to the first guest.

But the building's history began in 1928 when eight men from Wisconsin walked through thick stands of Douglas fir at Rock creek, near Remote. These experts were imported to select flawless timbers, hand-groove them, and construct a gigantic building. What was to be the first of a string of high-class dude ranches from Myrtle Point to Coquille stood idle for several years until the CCC took it over on a temporary basis in 1932.

SHERWOOD, JUST OUT of the army and still on terminal leave, was taking a short cut to Roseburg one day when he noticed the abandoned log building. He got out of his model 'A' for a closer look. There was no chinking or chukking in the logs. They were so closely hewn no daylight squeezed through. He walked up a stairway made of hand-axed, half logs and found a 6000 square-foot room that did not have a pillar or single protrusion.

"What a wonderful place if it were in a spot where people could see it," he said.



WORKMEN ARE SHOWN dismantling handsome log structure at Remote. Logs were loaded aboard trucks and hauled to new site at Yachats, 120 miles away.

Sherwood located the owner who was surprised at finding someone eager to move the two-story, 104 by 72-foot building. A contract was made, and he was given six months to have his structure entirely removed. Sherwood worked with a crew of "four broken down GI's and four broken down shovels." Armed with war surplus tools, they cleared the ground in less than two months.

BEFORE DISMANTLING, they figured out a "Logkeeping" system. Mrs. Marian W. Irwin of Seattle joined the enterprise and had the job of keeping track of 1500 logs. Each was numbered with a crayon, and charts resembling ledger paper contained intricate diagrams for getting ceiling braces, rafters and other members into the right niches. The papers were lying on a stump one day when a gust of wind scattered them over an acre. After that scare, duplicate copies were made and placed in a safe.

"With mud and rain washing off the numbers, it took good detective work to locate vital parts of the building," recalls Mrs. Irwin, who left a teaching job to slush around in hip boots and learn how to use a peavey.

It was a soggy and tired crew that hauled 50 and 70-footers along a winding highway to the two-acre corner. The site selected for the lodge is where the Sherwoods spent their honeymoon 20 years earlier. It is bounded by the ocean on the west, Yachats river on the north, and mountains on the east.

OTHERS HAVE been fascinated by this area. The property was originally bought by a British syndicate, headed by a Sir Malcolm Peaks. He thought it resembled the coast of England and that it was a smashing spot for establishing a colony. Because of the war, the ground was again sold and subdivided. Another colony—this one consisting of nudists—spent some time there.

People at Yachats did not show more than usual curiosity when a foundation was built for the new hotel. But when they looked across the river and saw Sherwood's crew arranging logs of varying lengths on the ground, the most experienced kibitzer scratched his head.

The four walls were laid out, with space left for windows and doorways, just as they would appear when standing in vertical position. The large-scale jigsaw puzzle was eventually solved, and the lodge began to take shape.

THE OPEN UPPER floor, designed as a dance hall, was partitioned off into bedrooms. All walls were made of logs. The hotel probably is the largest all-log building in the West. Closest competitor for this honor is Portland's Forestry Pavilion, which is a larger building but not of log construction throughout.

One of the problems that occurred before the hotel opened was a court case on a multi-thousand dollar paint contract. An out-of-stater was hired to spray the logs on the outside of

after one day's labor. It covered that he had purchased 160 cases of Purex, with which he bleached the logs, from a local grocer. Sherwood won the case, but the compensation was not enough to pay for a sand-blasting job on the hotel's exterior.

On mild summer evenings or during stormy weather, guests find that the lodge's massive stone fireplace is one of its most comfortable features. One fire serves four openings, and marshmallow roasters can gaze at each other from opposite sides of the fire. It was designed by Sherwood and is said to be the only fireplace of its kind. The man hired to build it would not be responsible for cutting a husky beam to make room for a chimney. He thought this would dismantle the building again. So Sherwood grabbed a crosscut saw and did the job.

SHERWOOD ALSO designed the furniture, keeping with the rustic theme by placing log slabs on sides and headboards of beds, dressers and stools. Even metal clothes hooks are too worldly for this setting. A guest hangs his fishing togs on a wooden peg.

The lodge is becoming well seasoned and its guest book is getting fatter each month. Visitors have ranged from sportsmen and week end beachcombers to governors and a Swedish council general. One interested visitor was a former CCC worker who had not seen the lodge since it was located at Rock creek.

The owner realized his desire in placing the lodge where others can enjoy it. Removed from its forest sanctuary, but in a setting that even pleases log No. 513, Sherwood Lodge and its recently constructed log motels are made to order for the unspoiled Oregon coast.

The above newspaper article tells the story about how the 7,000-square-foot building at the CCC Camp Bradford became the Sherwood Lodge in Yachats, Oregon; date, unknown. Courtesy of the Richard Hansen collection at Oregon State University.

have been quite a sight to see the 50- to 70-foot logs being hauled the 120 miles north over route 42 and then up highway 101 on the backs of old broken down G.I rigs! Sadly, the lodge in Yachats burned to the ground around 1952.

CHINA FLATS CAMP

Location: Section 23, Township 32 South, Range 12 West, Willamette Meridian, Coos County, Oregon

CAMP CHINA FLATS # F-105; COMPANY # 1727

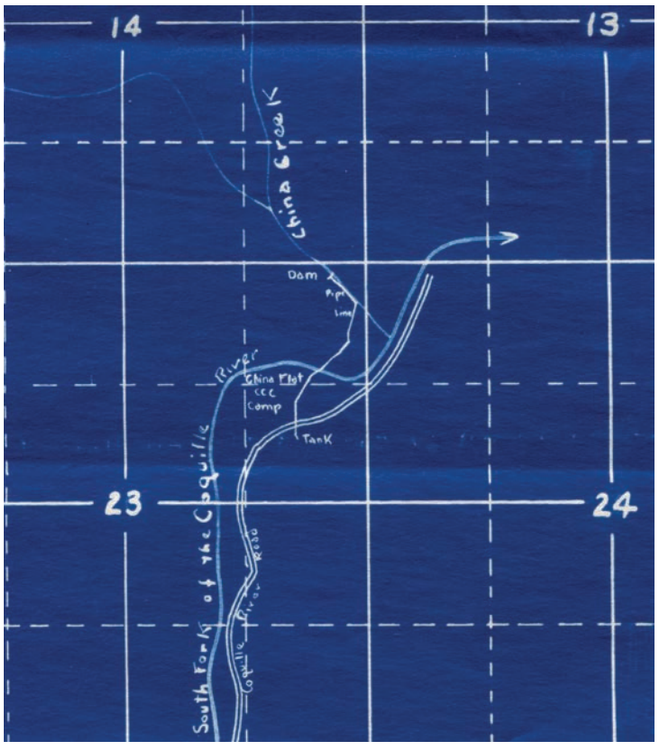
(June 22, 1933–October 1937)

ARRIVAL AT CAMP

On June 22, 1933, the local *Coquille Valley Sentinel* newspaper reported that a small group of 3-Cs men had arrived at Powers, Oregon from the "whitewashed cabin" located four miles south of town where the men had been working in preparation for the arrival of the rest of the contingent from their CCC company. At 3:00 pm a Southern Pacific train with four Pullmans, a kitchen car, and two baggage coaches arrived in Powers with 167 new CCC enrollees, most of them were boys from southern Missouri. A big crowd of townspeople were on hand to watch them detrain for the last stage of their journey on their way to the camp at China Flats, 11 miles south of town. (China Flats got its name from the Chinese community that lived in the open-meadow campsite during the gold mining era in the early 1850s.) Nine army trucks had arrived the previous evening to haul the boys and their gear to camp, but there were an insufficient number of vehicles to haul the whole crew to camp, so the train pulled off on a siding near the Smith-Powers mill and those not going directly to camp spent another night in the Pullman.

BUILDING THE CAMP

Before leaving their home state of Missouri, the boys of Company # 1727 spent a month at Fort Jefferson, Missouri going through the CCC "basic training" before taking the long train ride to Powers, Oregon. The *Coos Bay Times* newspaper reported that once the boys arrived in camp,



The CCC camp at China Flats was located in the NW ¼ of Section 23, T.32 S., R.12 S., W. M. Coos County, Oregon. Note the diversion dam on China Creek that provided the water for the camp. The camp area was around five acres in size and was leased from the Coos Bay Lumber Company in December 1933 at no charge.[110] Photo courtesy of State of Oregon Archived, Salem, Oregon.

they were a bit awestruck by the size of the Douglas fir trees and the rugged mountains that surrounded the little town.[111, 112] By 1939, only five members of the original Company remained at the camp; the majority returned to their homes in Missouri after the first enrollment Period.

THE HUT: WINTER QUARTERS

As the winter of '33 approached, the camp commander at the China Flats Camp must have felt the facilities there were not adequate for the approaching cold weather, so the entire contingent of men moved into the "Old Hut" building in Powers as their winter quarters. Apparently, the local school board at Powers had purchased the property, done some renovation work, and leased it for the winter months to the Corps. [113]

Captain K. A. Keveren, commander of the China Flat Camp, decided that when the men moved into town that the

Top: The enrollees are seen here erecting their semi-permanent tent structures at China Flats, ca. 1933. Middle: The China Flats tent camp is coming together, ca. 1933. Middle right: The China Flats Mess Hall Company # 1727, ca. fall of 1933. Bottom: The boys of Company # 1727 are seen here cutting firewood for the wood stoves in camp, ca. 1933.

Photos courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station at Gold Beach, Oregon.

Hut would be the prettiest spot in town. The local *Coos Bay Times* reported that by middle of February 1934, myriads of ferns, huckleberry bushes, and the beginning of a rock garden had transformed the old building into a veritable jungle-land of luxuriant growth. (Apparently, the captain had instructed every crew member that went out on a project into the woods to bring back at least one attractive plant.) The poles around the building had been white-washed, a new sidewalk of heavy timbers had been laid, and the pathway along the streets had been landscaped. Additionally, the camp infirmary had been renovated with a new linoleum floor, white walls, and potted ferns. The men of Company # 1727 hoped all their work would win the prize as the outstanding winter camp in the Medford District—unfortunately, they did not win.[114]

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

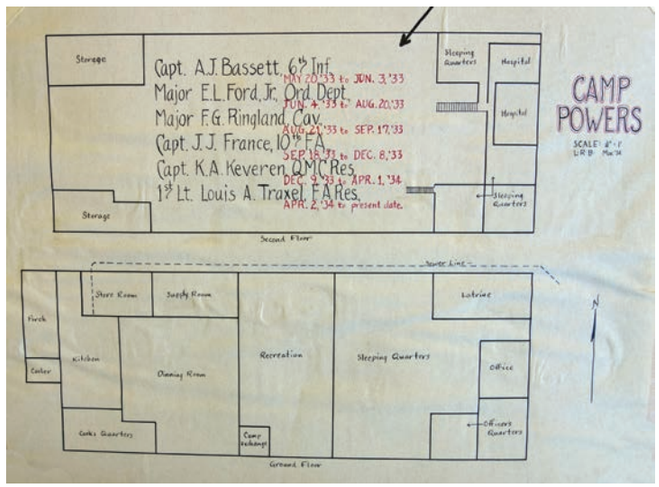
One of the missions of the Corps was to reach out to the local community in a spirit of friendship, and to gain support for their work. The month after moving into the old Hut building, the CCC invited the town of Powers to enjoy a basketball game in the gymnasium between two teams from China Flats. A dance was held after the game with the music furnished by a five-piece "orchestra" from the CCC Camp Bradford. The Company followed the dance with a delicious lunch prepared by their chefs.[115]

When the enrollees moved back to their summer quarters at China Flats in '35 and got the place cleaned up, they held another open house for the public to show off their Camp facilities. They were immensely proud of how the camp looked. They had camp guides that showed off the barracks, the recreation hall with its Ping-Pong and pool tables, the education building, the kitchen, office, tool shed, shop, laundry, etc. In reading the visitors' comments, it's apparent that the boys at China Flats were not wanting for amenities, and the facilities allowed each boy to live a "full life" when in camp.

BIGGER PROJECTS

Probably the biggest project undertaken by Company # 1727 was the construction of the roadway from China Flats to Agness, a distance of 34 miles. The enrollees from Camp Agness were also working on the road from the Rogue

The Hut in Powers, Oregon: winter home of the CCC enrollees from China Flats. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society.



The interior of the Hut as it existed in winter of 1933-34 when the CCC boys occupied the building. Drawing courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

River end, but the main force that covered the distance came from the China Flats Camp. Along with the hand-labor provided by the enrollees, there was a gasoline-powered excavator and a Cletrac-55 bulldozer for the heavy work. Because of the large amount of rock on the surrounding cliffs, a lot of dynamiting was required. The rock had to be drilled with an air compressor drill, the holes filled with dynamite, the primer cord attached to a plunger a safe distance away, and then the "shot" was made.

The following story summarizes one enrollee's experience in handling the dangerous stumping powder:

"... As the men arrived in camp, they were issued clothing consisting of World War 1 uniforms, beds which consisted of blankets and a bag filled with straw for a mattress and

"FIRE!"

The above sketch was taken from the book Saga of the CCC by John D. Guthrie, 1942.[66]

If rock bluffs were not the impediment for constructing a road, stumps often were. They had to be removed from within the road prism before the heavy equipment could to its work. Here a CCC boy from China Flats is loading the hole beneath a stump with dynamite in preparation to set off a charge. Photo courtesy of Oregon State University Archives.

a mess kit. Then cue time came to assign duties and jobs. It is not known just what methods were needed to get the men on the job and the program rolling, but I believe that a list of the jobs to be done was written on a large chart and a roster of the men placed alongside. The men's names were listed alphabetically from A to Z and starting with A, assignments were made.

It went like this; a name was called, the man stepped forward and received the news that he would be head cook, the next one would be 2nd cook and so on until all the jobs were filled. I'm sure this was the method employed because when they got down to the M's and called my name; I was informed that I was to be a "powder man-unlimited" and would be blasting trees from the road right-of-way. Up to this time, I had never any more than seen powder, let alone, used any of it.

On the second day of my job as powder man, after studying the blaster's manual thoroughly, I attempted to remove a 50' Douglas-fir tree from the edge of the road. It was the practice in those days to blast the trees from the right-or-way, in doing so the tree and the stump were both removed at the same time and went down the mountain and out of the way. The manual indicated where to dig the holes and how much powder it would take to blast out a tree of a given size; each inch in diameter required a certain amount of powder.

After getting the holes filled with powder and all tapped in, I started to get second thoughts and doubted very much if that amount of powder would do the job. At this early stage in my career, I did want to be a success, so to be safe, two large holes were dug beneath the tree and two more boxes of stumping powder were tapped in. The result was that the tree went down the mountain all right and with it 100 feet of the road. It took several days to repair the road enough to let the trucks over it. In the meantime, the crews walked the three miles to work in the morning and back to camp in the evening…"[116]

The gravel for surfacing the road was provided by a rock crusher located between the China Flats Camp and the Agness road summit. The roadwork began in 1933 and the road was finally opened for public access to Agness for the first time in June 1937— although it was weather dependent and people were asked to inquire at the various ranger stations about its condition before attempting the trip.

For reasons only known to the enrollees of the camp, this roadway was called the Coquille Road. In reading through the "project report column" in the *Siskiyou Stag* camp newspaper, it seems that the Coquille Road to Agness suffered from constant slides and trees falling across the road. The maintenance of this truck road was a constant vigil during the winter months. The road was completed for all-weather access in July 1939.

The other main road project undertaken by the China Flats Camp was the construction of sixteen miles of what was called the "Coquille Utilization Road"—an 85-mile route that ran from China Flats to Grants Pass. Before this road was completed the trip from Powers to Grants Pass was 153 miles in length.

A nice summary of the history of the China Flats Camp appeared in the February 25, 1938 issue of *The Siskiyou Stag*:

WHAT CAMP CHINA FLATS WAS IN DAYS GONE BY

"The China Flat Camp in 1933 was a great deal different from the present one. Construction had not begun on the Coquille River Road, so the old Pepper Bros. toll road was used. The camp was located down on the bar by the river for three months. Finally a wooden mess hall and shake recreation hall were built on the present camp site. Tent barracks were used; these having no wooden floors in them.

The camp was moved in October 1933 to Powers and reoccupied in April '34. The road, meanwhile, had been built to Delta Creek, four miles from China Flats. From there on, the trucks were towed by cats. On June 27, 1934, the road was completed into the Camp. In October of that same year, the present wood barracks were finished.

The Camp has been occupied by Company 1627 and 1727 of the 6th and 7th Corps. It was abandoned for two years until it was re-occupied by Company 5443. The camp has come a long way in improvements and conveniences since the pioneer days of 1933."[76]

In May 1939, The Stag celebrated its second anniversary of existence—the first printing being done on May 30, 1937 at Camp Agness. It was the only hand-set press newspaper in the Ninth Corps (remember, a seven state area).[117] *The press was moved from Camp Agness to China Flats on October 10, 1937. The only month it was not published was in July 1938, when the entire Camp was out on fires patrol.*[117]

Blasting crew from Camp Rand preparing a shot near the Graves Creek Bridge, 35 miles above camp Agness, ca. 1935. On many occasions, the truck roads involved a lot of hand labor by the CCC men on the road crews. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station at Gold Beach, Oregon.

The above photos show the CCC boys from China Flats Camp sloping the road bank on the road from Powers to Agness, ca. 1935. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station at Gold Beach, Oregon.

The CCC Cletrac bulldozer seen here building the roadway near the Agness Pass on the way to Powers, ca. 1935. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station at Gold Beach, Oregon.

Another project undertaken by the men of China Flats Camp was the construction of a public camping site at Daphne Grove. During the spring of '35, the CCC built a 20' x 30' log building with a massive fireplace with cooking plates on either side. This is but another project showing the skills of the LEMs, and enrollees of the Corps. At the time it was constructed, the site was little known by the general public. In addition to the building, the enrollees constructed six major campsites, each equipped with a stone fire pit constructed out of river rock. They also brought water from a spring 1,500 feet away that fed four hydrants and two drinking fountains. The campsite is still in existence today and lies about twelve miles up the South Fork of the Coquille River road, south of Powers.[118] Photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station at Gold Beach, Oregon, ca. May 1936.

CAMP CHINA FLATS # F-106; COMPANY # 5443

(October 1937–June 1942)
In May 1936, Company # 5543 was assembled at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, composed of young men from Florida and Georgia. They left the Fort on May 25 on route to Oregon, with an intermediate stop at Fort John Fox, in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, where they worked on road construction projects throughout the summer.

On October 8, 1937, the company once again boarded the train for the long trip to Marshfield, Oregon, where they arrived in the evening on October 14, 1937. By 1:00 am, they had moved all of their belongings to Camp China Flats.[119] On March 23, 1939 the majority of them boarded the train at Roseburg, Oregon for the long ride back east for discharge. They had been at the China Flats camp since their enrollment at Fort Oglethorpe.[17]

A RAINY CAMP THAT WEIGHS ON THE SPIRIT

As the boys from the south settled into the routine of camp life during the wet winter months, some of the enrollees worked on constructing or reconstructing various buildings within the camp. One of the projects undertaken was to build an infirmary in the rear portion of the recreation building. It was comprised of seven private rooms, showers and toilets, as well as a waiting room. The lumber for the construction came from the demolishment of the buildings at Camp Humbug.[121] Also completed was the construction of their mess hall, which gave them a place to gather and eat their meals "out of the rain." A crew also went to Grants Pass to disassemble two portable buildings from a USFS spike camp that had been closed. Each building was 15 feet by 30 feet in dimension; one building was used as a library and typing room and the other for a classroom.

In reading the newspaper from China Flats, it became quite apparent that the boys from Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, and Louisiana were looking forward to completing their six-month enrollment and heading back home. The rain was getting to them! During the month of March of '38 the Powers Ranger Station recorded a total amount of precipitation from September 1, 1937 to March 31, 1938 of 80.20 inches. To make matters worse for the enrollees assigned to maintain the road from the camp to Agness, the winter rains caused numerous slides that blocked the

road—causing them to work in all kinds of foul weather day after day.

When the enlistment for Period 10 (October 1, 1937–March 31, 1938) was up, 96 men departed China Flats for their long trip home; some caught the train at Marshfield and others caught the train from Roseburg. On April 21, 1938 (Period 11), 105 new enrollees arrived by train at Powers. That was the first time since the camp reopened that the troop train travelled all the way into Powers. They were excited to have their long journey over and held high expectations for an adventurous next six months. The addition of these men brought the camp strength to 186. Once again the enrollees were from the South. As the 96 members of Company #5443 began the process of rotating out of the Corps in September of '38, the emotions ran in a multiple directions. While they worked very hard on the various camp projects, fought many forest fires, and frankly had little opportunity for recreation, the column in the camp newspaper depicts the emotional exit:

"...Through the past season, each of us has had new experiences that have added to our practical knowledge and also to the storeroom of our memories. It is with deep rooted affection that we leave behind out friends of Company # 5443, the men we have lived and worked with the past months, the foreman who have worked to improve our working knowledge of the tasks performed, and the officers who have contributed to the comfort and pleasures in camp..." [122]

As Period 11 was ending and the enrollees from China Flats began leaving, once again a trainload of raw enrollees arrived to replace those who left, as 98 young men from Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana arrived at China Flats on October 24 about to face the same "winter" doldrums that were so discouraging for the lot from the deep south who left the year before. The camp commander, with a wink and a smile, said: *"And when you have gone through a winter of this Oregonian weather and the rain decides to discontinue, you too will say 'those tin suits were one of our best friends after all'".*[123] The reference to a "tin suit" is a type of material, used for pants and a rain coat that is excellent at shedding water.

The rotation continued with 157 new enrollees arriving at the Camp in July 1939 and the Camp commander welcoming them as "the boys from down South." There was no explanation given as to why this particular rotation occurred in the middle of a Period and by Christmas, 24 recruits had boarded the train for the return trip back to Oglethorpe for discharge. A month later 43 new men rolled

FROM WHENCE THEY CAME

There was no real explanation as to why young men from the certain parts of the country were consistently recruited to serve in camps along the southern Oregon coast. Recruits from Nebraska, Illinois, and the southern states seemed to be the locations from which many of the camps were populated. However, the project work performed by the early enrollees at Camp Walker on the Elliott State Forest did not go well with the "boys from the east" who knew little about working in that environment. They were rotated out rather quickly and replaced with young men from the state of Oregon itself where the boys knew how to "handle an axe." As each six-month enrollment Period came and as some of the men rotated out of the Corps, the camp at China Flats continued to see new enrollees arrive from the southern part of the United States. In the November '37 issue of the camp newspaper the boys from Dixie noted that they never knew it could rain so hard for so long a time! The men were experiencing the start of winter among the hills of the Oregon coast range. There seemed to be a big question in the minds of the southerners as to why they were sent out to the camp that sat in the heart of big timber and heavy rains. Word was relayed to the Supervisor of the Siskiyou National Forest about this question, so he addressed the Camp just before Thanksgiving. Here is a summary of his explanation:

...The Siskiyou National Forest contains over 1.7 million acres of land that contains some of the finest timber in the country. In fact there are species of trees found here that are not found any place else in the world. Due to the ruggedness of the land, there needed to be a great amount of road building to make this large expanse of land safe from forest fires, to open the area for proper forest management as well as providing access roads for public recreation..."[120]

The editor of the Camp newspaper, the Siskiyou Stag, went on to say: *"Uncle Sam has seen fit through the CCC to transfer us out her to help improve this forest by constructing roads, bridges, telephone lines and to protect the forest in case of fires. We take pride in the fact that we are participating in the development and protection of this fine body of timber, which will be a benefit, not only to the people of this state, but to the country as a whole. We appreciate our new task."*[120]

into camp from Georgia and North Carolina as the enlistment times continued to rotate. In April of 1940, 82 new rookies arrived from the Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama and they were quickly indoctrinated into camp life and how to be an effective and safe member of the fire crews.

While the Camp commander offered a warm welcome to the new enrollees, he also gave some frank advice: *"...The opportunities are here for you to improve yourselves physically and mentally. If you take advantage of these opportunities, it is my belief that you will be happier here and be better able to tackle the problems facing you after your time is up in the CCC. Right now we are facing a season of fire suppression and you will be required to take your places with other members of the Company in this work. So, let me now impress upon you the necessity of learning the safety reminders and rules so that you will not have any bodily injury during your stay with us..."*

To some enrollees, the six-month tour of duty, thousands of miles from home, probably seemed like an eternity, but when the boys were faced with leaving their home-in-the-west for the train ride home, many had second thoughts about re-enlisting. Such was the case in the fall of 1939 for the 85 "China Flatters," as they were known, when they left camp for Roseburg and the ride home, or to another camp somewhere down south. Many were forced to go because they had been in the Corps for the set maximum enrollment of two years and could not "re-up." The loss of these senior men was felt throughout the camp and the projects they undertook.[124] However, within a month, 85 new members of Company # 5443 arrived in camp. This group all hailed from either Mississippi or Louisiana.

The point here is that one gets the distinct impression that there seemed to be a revolving door of enrollees coming and going. Some came from other CCC camps that had closed, while others were raw recruits who had only just had their 3-C basic training at some army camp back east. Imagine the difficulties that the LEMs and forest supervisors had in keeping a safe and efficient project going forward with new men seemingly showing up every day, without proper training!

More so than any other camp newspaper read in compiling this book, *The Siskiyou Stag* at China Flats seemed to carry a religious message—in almost every edition. This did not seem out of place, though, since one of the points in President Roosevelt's vision for the Corps was to not only improve the physical and mental condition of the enrollees, but also their morale spirit. Here is one of such a message delivered in the August 1939 edition of the Stag—"Beautiful Thoughts" by the District Chaplain H. W. Anderson:

"'Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.' These words from the Bible are both an implication and a warning. They imply that a man's true character can be judged by his every-day language. At times when many men 'cover up' their true character by polite speech and guarded language, but other times they cut loose in cursing, vile and filthy talk, dirty jokes, etc. Here is where their true character comes to light.

This Scripture verse also warns every man to guard his thoughts. We are what we think. No man thinks evil and lives a good life. Filling the mind with profanity and immoral thoughts inevitably results in profane speech and immoral acts. 'As a man thinks, so is he'. This is a warning to every man to allow nothing but the true, the beautiful and the good to enter his thoughts of life. This will guarantee that noting but the true, the beautiful and the good will leave a mark on his character.

Your life is an open book, known and read by all men. Cultivate those qualities of Christian character which will issue forth in noble ideals, strong moral convictions and clean speech. Men will follow your example..." [124] *(Not a bad message for any time.)*

Two years later, the Stag reported that all of the chaplains in the Medford CCC district were World War I veterans.[17]

THE DRY SEASON: FIREFIGHTING PIONEERS

Fighting forest fires was one of the projects that all CCC camps faced every summer and fall. The area around Powers can get particularly hot and dry in September and October. It had been the practice of the Corps to give intensive fire training in the spring of each year to the entire Company.[125] The U.S. Forest Service had been studying various firefighting techniques and thought some changes were in order as far as the way the CCC men worked the fire line. The Forest Service determined that a new proposed strategy wouldn't work for the full complement of a camp, but could be very effective for a team of 40 men well-schooled in the new techniques. In the spring of '39, the USFS hand-picked 40 men from China Camp and taught them these new techniques.

About the middle of summer of 1940, Mr. David P. Goodwin, Assistant Chief, Division of Fire Control from Washington D.C., observed the China Camp boys on a practice demonstration and was so impressed by their action, that

CCC enrollee on the way to a fire. Photo courtesy of Douglas County Museum # 9388.

The 20-man crew from China Flats training to build a fire line. Photo courtesy of the Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis, Oregon.

The Cedar House was all that was left when in 1979 Dr. Stephen Dow Beckham conducted an inventory of all the CCC camps in the Siskiyou National Forest. This is the west-facing view of the Cedar House. Photo courtesy of Dr. Stephen Beckham.

he requested a report on the organization of the crew, methods of training, and their accomplishments on fires during the balance of the season. The purpose being that the process would be used to create a specialized firefighting crew within each CCC camp in the West. A summary of the report appeared in the July 15, 1939 edition of *The Siskiyou Stag*:[126]

TRAINING THE ELITE FIRE CREW AT CHINA FLAT

1. Selection of the men—In making up the China Flat CCC 40-man fire crew, an effort was made to select enrollees who were in the best physical shape and emotionally set for the dangerous task of fighting forest fires. These men were taken from just about every project crew in the camp. Undoubtedly this may have delayed the

normal camp projects as the available manpower was 20 percent short, but in the end it created the very best fire team available from China Camp.

2. Once the men were selected, they were shipped off to a side camp at Iron Mountain where a road construction project was underway. This site was chosen for two reasons. One, the road-building work was hard work and toned the men to the fullest extent possible; and second, it was located in such a place that it could provide quick response should a fire break out in two ranger districts. Probably a third reason was the isolation of the spike camp. No outside influence interfered with the training of each man as to their specific duties on a fire line.
3. The men were housed in tents which were framed with wooden floors. Food was provided in a portable frame building. The report said that the camp met all the army requirements as to water supply, sanitation, and camp facilities.
4. Training—During the early spring, the hand-picked enrollees would spend one day per week in fire training school on topics such as the use of fire suppression tools, get-away action, fire line construction, and other special fire-specific job training. The training intensified by midsummer and once the fire team had a few fires under their belts, the training dropped off to half a day per week.
5. The "get-away" training is not what one might first think. It has nothing to do with getting away from the fire for safety reasons. It is all about being as efficient as possible getting *to* the fire when the fire alarm sounded in camp or at the project site. Each enrollee on the fire crew was assigned a number corresponding to his job on the fire line. His field pack carried the same number. Packs and tools were stored in a separate building at the spike camp. There was also a truck assigned to transport them. The goal was to be onboard the trucks and on the road to a fire in seven minutes!
6. Each man's pack weighed in at 36 pounds. Among other things in the pack were a lightweight goose down sleeping bag and an ample supply of condensed high quality rations to last up to three days per man. There would be two rows of packs in the specially built tool shed ready to be grabbed at a moment's notice.
7. Fire-line construction—The crew was trained to work as a single unit using the "one-lick" method of fire line construction exclusively on all types of terrain and forest condition. The "one-lick" method was just that: each man in the 40-man lineup would take a single stroke at the material to be removed and then move forward leaving the next in line to take another "lick."

In reading over the fire training report, one gets the feeling that a small army regiment was about to embark on some enemy encampment. Practice, practice, and more practice made the handpicked and trained CCC fire team a real success. On one incendiary fire that was set on August 11, 1940, the fire crew from China Flats constructed 5,610 feet of fire line between 7:30 pm and 11:00 pm and stopped the fire at 30 acres. The fire warden commented on the exceptional work done by the crew.[127]

ANOTHER EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT

Another enterprise the men from the China Flats Camp got involved in was the Port Orford Cedar Experimental Forest project. The experiment was created in the mid-1930s on the South Fork of the Coquille River, on the northern perimeter of the Siskiyou National Forest. The site was set aside for research into the thick groves of old-growth Port Orford Cedar, and to create recreational experiences for the public through interpretive programs. At the site, on the west bank of the Coquille, the CCC boys at the China Flats Camp erected a variety of buildings, one of which was the "Cedar House."

In his 1979 report on all the CCC camps in the Siskiyou National Forest, Dr. Stephen Beckham stated that the entrance to the facility had badly decayed, but a rustic sign still read "Pacific Northwest Experiment Station/Port Orford Cedar Natural Area/A part of the Experimental Forest west of this sign, 1,122 acres in size has been set aside as an example of the Port Orford Cedar type to be kept forever in the natural condition for scientific and educational use."[92] The research area and building is still in existence and managed by the Powers Ranger District of the USFS.

Beckham further described the Cedar House as a one and one-half story wood frame building. The building had a shake-covered gable roof and had a projecting wing and attached, open porch on its front. The exterior of the building and its eves were enclosed or covered with cedar bark. The building was set on a concrete foundation, two brick chimneys, and a 14-foot breezeway that connected the rear of the building to a garage and woodshed. It was the largest

cedar house in the Siskiyou Forest.[92] The Christmas 1937 edition of *The Siskiyou Stag* camp newspaper reported that work on the Port Orford Experimental Forest project was progressing well and the landscaping around the building was almost complete.

CAMP LIFE

Unlike many of the other camps studied for this book, Camp China Flats did not have an educational building—that is until Camp Humbug was closed and the Commander at China Flats thought the lumber from Humbug could be recycled into an educational one at their site. As it turned out, one of the buildings from the Silver Lake CCC Camp in Eastern Oregon was dismantled and moved to China Flat for that purpose instead. The education building was completed in November '39 and the most popular course at the camp dealt with forest conservation: it had the highest participation of any class offered. By midwinter of 1940, the education program at China Flats Camp was in full swing with 28 different classes being offered.

As mentioned earlier, the army was responsible for feeding the 200 +/- men encamped at China Flats. The camp menus were always part of the inspection reports conducted on a regular basis by the Corps and the Department of the Army. In reviewing a few of these inspection reports, one can't help but conclude that the army was taking very good care of the enrollee's diet. For instance, the November '39 issue of *The Siskiyou Stag* listed the now-typical special Thanksgiving meal:

THANKSGIVING MENU–1939
Noodle Soup, Olives, Roast Turkey, Cranberry Sauce, Giblet Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Buttered Peas, Scalloped Cauliflower, Parker House Rolls with Butter and Jam, Fruit Jell-O, Coffee with Cream and Sugar, Candy and Mixed Nuts, Cigarettes and Cigars.

FINAL PROJECTS

By early in the spring of 1940, a crew of 50 men from China Camp began tackling a new roadway from the Coquille River to Eden Ridge. They were assisted by a gasoline-powered excavator to handle deep side cuts through some of the roughest terrain the boys had ever seen; two bulldozers were also put into play. One comment in the camp newspaper referred to a 300-foot rock cliff they were preparing to dynamite. Progress was slow and when it rained hard, the crew would change projects that were closer to the main camp.

By April, spike camps were set up for a 10-man road crew on Eden Ridge as well as one on Iron Mountain where fire lookouts were to be constructed. The lookouts were completed by the beginning fire season and put into good use.[43] In August, 28 enrollees from the South arrived at China Flats, and most of them were immediately sent directly out to the Iron Mountain spike camp to work on the roadway, as they were seasoned veterans of the Corps and needed little training.[128]

The last copy of the *Siskiyou Stag* newspaper was printed in April 1942. It is interesting that the content of the paper made no mention of the war in Europe or the Pacific. The only mention of the war was a comment made about removing sharp rocks from the road so that the truck tires would not get punctured, as tires were hard to get because of the war. It is as if the camp at China Flats was cut off from the rest of the world. In fact, the paper reported that 150 new enrollees had arrived in camp that month! Work continued as usual on the South Fork Coquille road and on telephone lines that stretched from Powers to Agness. There was even news that the softball team was gearing up for another fine season.

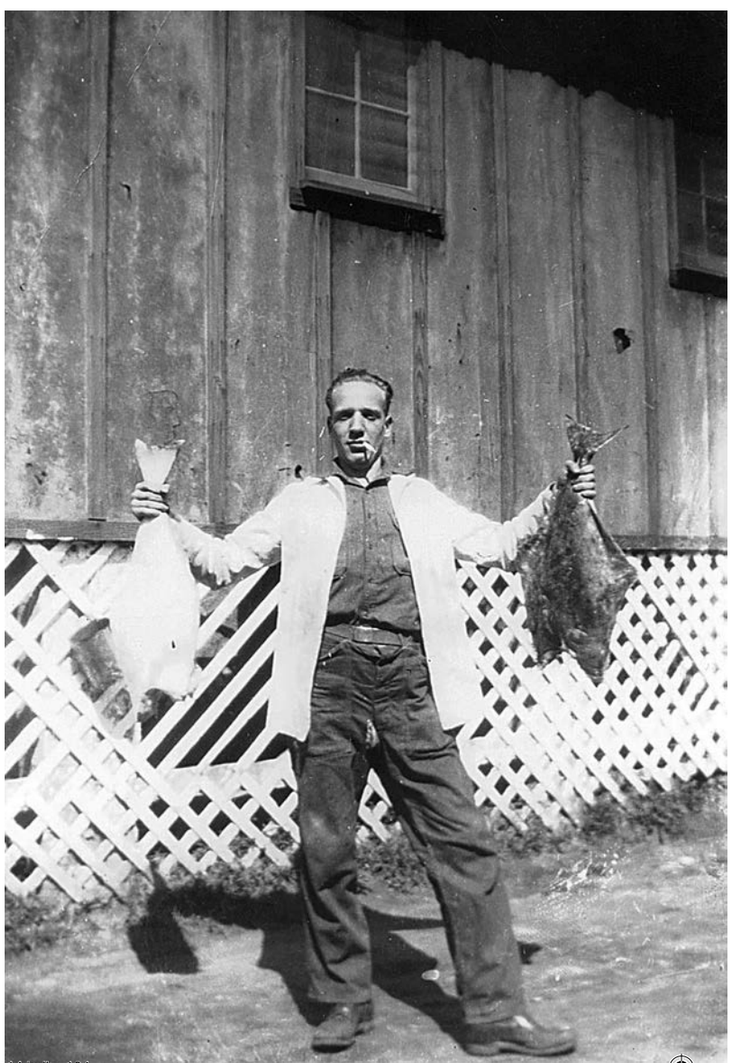
CAMP COOS HEAD

Location: Section 2, Township 26 South, Range 14 West, Willamette Meridian, Coos County, Oregon

CAMP COOS HEAD # SP–8; COMPANY # 1622
(October 1934–March 1935)

AN OLD CAMP MADE NEW

In August 1934 fifteen men from the CCC camp at Bradford were sent to Camp Coos Head to make preparations for enrollees being transferred from Camp Tyee that September for winter quarters at Camp Coos Head. Old government barracks that had been used by crews that built the rock jetties at the mouth of Coos Bay during the early 1900's



Top: CCC Camp Coos Head, ca. 1935. Photo courtesy of University of Oregon Special Archives—Oregon Marine Biology Institute, which is a satellite campus of the University of Oregon and is the current owner of the facility. In 1991, there were two of the old camp buildings still in use by the University as storage units.

Left: With the Coos Head Camp only a few miles from the Pacific Ocean, fishing was always a favorite pastime with the young men at the camp. Three locally caught flounder are being proudly held by an enrollee.

were renovated, and a new mess hall constructed. Following the 137-mile trip from Camp Tyee, sixteen trucks loaded with men and their supplies pulled into Camp Coos Head, with Company # 1622 ready to occupy the camp starting on Thursday, October 25, 1934.

By November, the camp enrollees cleared the site of wreckage and debris that had accumulated during the earlier jetty construction as well as removed some old, unsightly, and useless small buildings. The Oregon State Park Service shop building was repaired; two small garages had been moved and equipped to serve as storage and supply rooms; boardwalks were built from the barracks to the mess hall; the water system was rehabilitated, and the quarter-mile road from the camp to the highway at Charleston was surfaced with rock.[129, 130] The old campsite was shaping up.

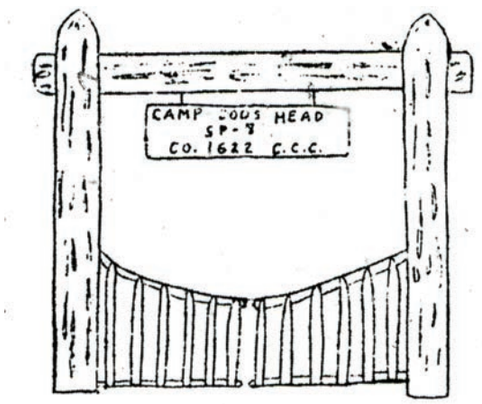
WORK PROJECTS

In addition to the above improvements to the camp, the company launched two main projects under the direction of the Oregon State Parks Service—first, to make improvements and landscaping at the Coos Head Light House facility, which became Coos Head State Park; and second, to build Cape Arago State Park. The former contained 172.5 acres and was owned jointly by the University of Oregon and the cities of Marshfield and North Bend. The Cape Arago State Park was once owned by a local entrepreneur named Louis J. Simpson, but had been run down due to years of abandonment and neglect. It was 134 acres in size.[132]

The November '34 edition of the Coos Head Camp newspaper, *The Chatterbox*, described the projects for the Camp:

"...The work projects authorized for this camp are the development of two State Parks, one of which is known as Coos Head Park and it is located south of the entrance of Coos Bay with a shore line along the ocean of about one mile and about the same distance along the Bay. The other Park is known as Cape Arago and is approximately six miles south of the entrance to Coos Can and Coos Head Park, by road. This park has a shore line along the coast of about a mile. Both of these parks have good beaches, which will be made accessible from the high and rugged cliffs along the coast line. There are several bays and long points reaching out into the ocean that can now be reached by trails. In both park, roads will be constructed skirting the Bay and ocean. Cape Arago is now accessible by highway from Charleston.

As the new recruits settled into the routine of camp life, the commander of Camp Coos Head was determined to get the coveted Medford District flag for the best-kept camp in the region. All the enrollees pitched in, scrubbing, scouring, and cleaning the floors, windows, bunks, lockers and drawers. They repainted stoves and pipes and gave the barracks a thorough coating of green paint. They laid down wooden walks to the schoolhouse, infirmary, and officer's quarters and built a new fence and a new entrance, which was also the same entrance to Coos Head State Park. The camp commander, proud of his crew, noted: "The fact that most of this work is being done willingly in the enrollee's overtime shows conclusively that they want the flag."[131] Sadly, they came in second place! Chatterbox September 25, 1935.



In December, 1934 a new log archway was built at the entrance to the camp. It was a double-gate fence made in a rustic style. The company sign hung from the cross bar and help beautify the camp. The Chatterbox camp newspaper December, 1934.

JOKES
FROM THE CHATTERBOX

The CCC boys often told and published jokes and slang as a way to instill levity in the camps. Here are some entries from the March 1935 edition of *The Chatterbox:*

Question from professor of English:
"What is a metaphor?"
Answer from a Freshman:
"to keep cows in."

Definitions from the CCC enrollees:
Seed: Past tense of see
Horse: From a cold
Crop: Game played with dice
Fodder: Male parent

Unobstructed views of several miles of coast line can be had from both parks..." [132]

The paper went on to say:

"...Fire breaks are to be constructed around the parks and all dangerous snags are to be felled and burned and dead brush and logs cleaned up. Water will be piped to the camping grounds. The whole plan is to protect the green parks from fire. All members of this company are urged to and must confer with their respective foreman should any young growth be endangered by the hazard reduction work, this work is a park project and conservation work and not a land clearing job..."

To complete the camp's dressing-up, a new 50-foot-tall flagpole was erected and placed in front of the barracks. Photographs were taken of the event with the full complement of enrollees present, and the pictures were posted on the new bulletin board located near the camp headquarters' building. *The Chatterbox* cautioned the enrollees: *"Woo unto the man that throws a baseball through the glass front of the new bulletin board. It will cost the culprit $15."*

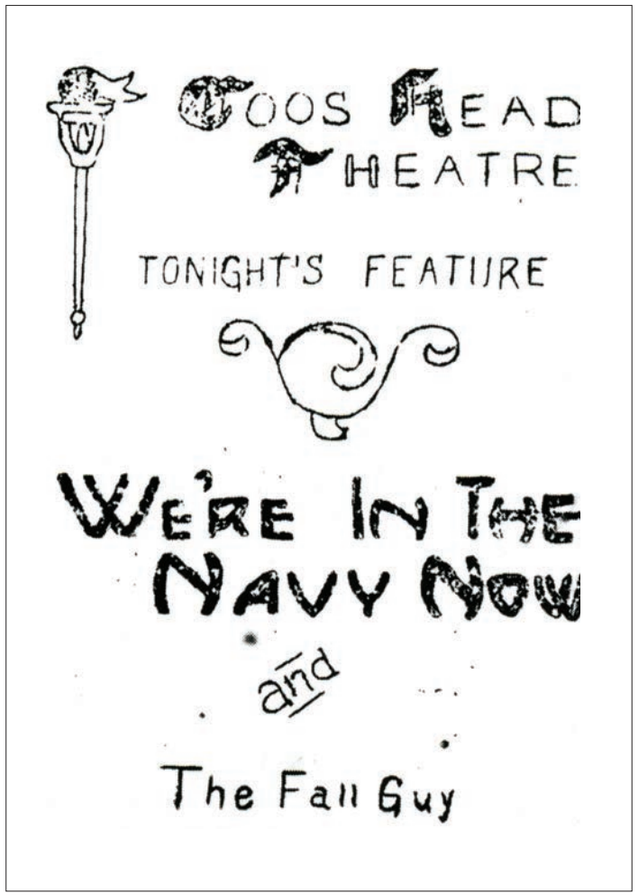
TIME OFF

As with all the CCC camps, the enrollees were given weekend passes to travel to a nearby town for recreation. In December of '34 the local paper reported an incident where the boys from Camp Coos Head carried out a hazardous good deed:

"...the boys of Company # 1622 were returning from a trip to town when they came upon a home in Charleston that had flames shooting out of the windows. They searched for a way in, and finally simply broke down the door to gain access. Through the heat and smoke, they searched for people and finding none started hauling the household items from the burning home. The inferno finally got so hot and smoky that they could not continue to save any more contents. They did however save all of the chickens that were in a nearby coop. One of the boys exclaimed that he could smell feathers burning! They were successful in stopping the fire from spreading to adjacent houses..."

Basketball at the Coos Head Camp seemed to suffer the same ills as did in the other camps—that is, except China Flats, who had a 6' 6" center. In describing the camp team at Coos Head in the December '34 edition, *The Chatterbox* reported that their first game showed very clearly the weakness of the team. It seemed that passing was a problem, as were their total offensive efforts. The first game of the season ended with the score China Flats Camp: 42; Coos Head Camp: 9! The coach promised to work on the team's weaknesses and be ready for the Medford District competition with other camps.

On a more positive note, the camp had a rather unique and popular extravagance not available in the other camps—it had installed a five-cent beer dispenser in its canteen in January of '35. The beer was the 3.2-percent alcohol variety and it flowed through ice-cooled coils to deliver the beverage cold and foamy. The company's commander, thinking ahead, had purchased a stainless steel two-tap dispensing cabinet for use in serving the draft beer; the cabinet apparently could hold two kegs so that one could be cleaned while the other was being used to dispense the beverage—thus it never "ran out." It was no surprise that the dispensed beverage was extremely popular with the men.



The enrollees at Camp Coos Head also enjoyed movies in their remodeled recreation hall. The movies were open to the locals, too, for an admission fee of 10 cents. The movie for the month of June of 1935 was "We're in the Navy Now"—a war comedy starring Wallace Berry made in 1926—some were silent films, and some were "talkies."

In the spring of '35, the camp received a 35-horsepower Cletrac bulldozer to help with the road construction to the Coos Head Park. The enrollees from the camp had previously cleared the road right of way to the Coos Head Lighthouse of trees and stumps in preparation for the arrival of the tractor. The Cletrac was also used to put the final polish on the road to the Cape Arago Park, while the landscaping crew from the camp planted Sitka spruce trees throughout the park. Those trees are still living today and can be seen in the park. Sadly, there is no signage acknowledging the work done by the Corps at either site.

CAMP COOS HEAD # SP–8; COMPANY # 1622

(April 1935–September 1935)
Again, the rotation of men in and out of the CCC camps along the southern coast of Oregon continued. In March of '35 the local paper reported that 73 men from the camp returned to their homes in Chicago and on April 29, 1935, a group of 113 new enrollees from Fort Sheridan, Illinois arrived by special train at the depot in Marshfield, Oregon, destined for the camp at Coos Head. Under a new regulation, many of the new enrollees had been in the 3-Cs before and had been now allowed to re-enroll; some had been in Company # 1622, when it was at Fallbrook, California. The addition of the new enrollees plus the 97 who also reenlisted and stayed put at Coos Head brought the camp strength to 210.

ONGOING PARKS PROJECTS

As the new men settled in, the work continued on the park projects assigned to the camp. By September 30, 1935, the enrollees had completed four miles of foot trail and created a topographical survey of 50 acres at Cape Arago State Park. The road grade for the loop to Cape Arago had been completed and was ready for gravelling. The Coos Head Park Road had been completed, reaching almost to the Coast Guard swinging bridge. The crew also started construction on a 70-foot long walking bridge near University Point.

Infrequently while I researched the CCC camps, I would run across personal correspondence from an enrollee that would give me a bit of insight into their time in the program. What follows is a personal letter from Edward Z. Panek as he remembered his stay at Camp Coos Head:

"...I lived in Chicago and was sent from Fort Sheridan, Illinois to Coos Head in April 1935. While there, crews were building a road around the park and cutting old stumps close to the ground. There was no side camp at Cape Arago State Park. Crews were transported by forestry trucks to the park. They cleared the park of brush and old trees and built toilets and picnic tables. In January of 1936, we were transferred to Camp Sitkum. I am 75 years old and still have fond memories of the time I spent in the CCC..."[133]

CAMP LIFE

Around Memorial Day, all the camp newspapers would run a patriotic section. In the edition just prior to Memorial Day 1935, for example, the editor of *The Chatterbox* (the Coos Head camp paper) wrote the following column:

"Next Thursday, the thirtieth of this month, is the day set aside for paying tribute to those men who died fighting for their country. It is well that we pause thus once annually and give a thought to this our great army of the dead. From Bunker Hill to Flanders Field row on row of little white crosses mark the resting places of the men who bought victory for the living. And for each white cross there is, or has been, a vacant chair, a heart ache to consecrate a memory.

In view of such a price, how can we the living hold less than sacred the heritage that these men died to give us? Shall we waste or fail to use that for which they through life itself gave a fair exchange? Can we do less than our very best to make the most of what they left us?

In dying they never questioned the justice of our desires; shall we question the value of that for which they died? Or shall we in memory of our dead, dedicate ourselves to the task of justifying their sacrifice?"[134]

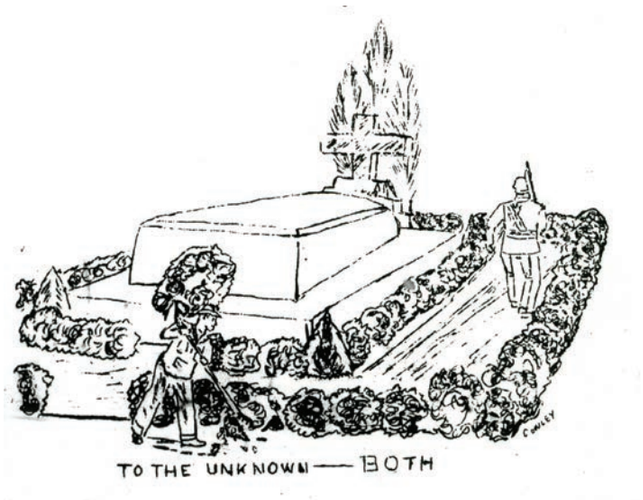
The little school house at the camp was dedicated by Oregon State Senator John Goss as follows:[135]

"In American civilization, the school house has never been an afterthought; it has always been one of the things that came first. Many of the rebels that won our independence did their sniping from the protective corners of log houses dedicated to the three R's. As forests were cleared along our westward moving frontier, school houses grew up between the stumps just as regularly as corn and potatoes.

Each rising generation learned its letters, spelled its words and did its sums in the community school so that they could figure their grocery bills and so that when they in turn established new outposts a little closer to the setting sun, they could maintain the thin tough line of communication that tied America together.

As civilization caught up with it, the schoolhouse was not dropped from use; instead, it grew with the community, changing to meet the needs of a changing way of life, remaining always the most reliable safeguard of civilization and the only hope of progress.

Today, America needs the schoolhouse more than ever before. Hard and dangerous as it was, the frontier of the stage coach and the pony express presented difficulties that



A sketch of the Unknown Soldier as it appeared in the Coos Head Camp newspaper, The Chatterbox on May 27, 1935.[134]

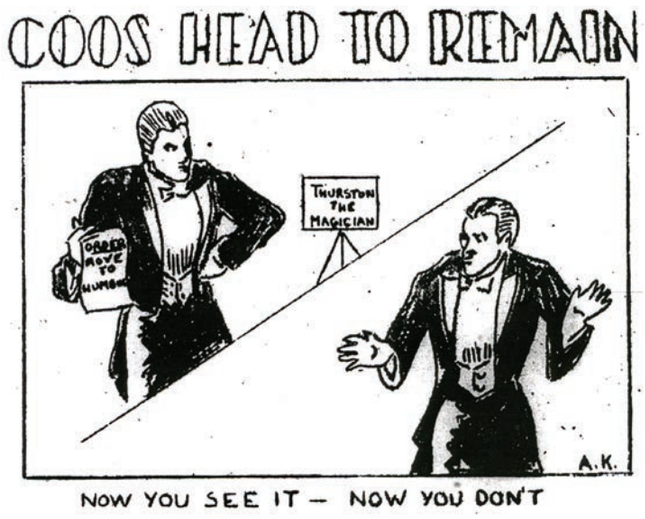
One of the popular buildings at the camp was the building the enrollees called the schoolhouse. It contained the camp library, and several classes were held there. Above is a sketch of the schoolhouse as it appeared in the May 20, 1935 edition of The Chatterbox. The edition was printed to celebrate the second anniversary of construction of Camp Coos Head. The local community was invited to a gala party that included many athletic events as well as a pie-eating contest.

were childishly simple when compared to those with which we must grapple in the immediate future if our civilization is to achieve anything like its maximum possibilities in human happiness.

Those responsible for the inauguration and administration of the Civilian Conservation Corps fully realized this and so they developed and are expanding the camp educational programs.

The education hall at Coos Head University is a material example of the prosecution of this program. It stands for the same things that the schoolhouse has always stood for in American communities—for social and economic security through the cultivation of the individual abilities of the members of the group, for understanding the enjoyment of life, for the development of leadership and the spirit of cooperation. In short, it is dedicated to the welfare of the group.

Naturally, though, it can achieve its purpose only in so far as you take advantage of the possibilities it offers. It extends opportunity: its service to the camp will be realized through those who take advantage of this opportunity."[135]



Commentary cartoon from The Chatterbox on the planned, then unplanned winter move to Camp Humbug. The Chatterbox newspaper of Coos Head Camp November 5, 1935.

Another big event happened at the camp on June 17, 1935—new mattresses arrived for the men! Four truckloads of the new bedding arrived from Medford and the men rushed to get their replacements. After each man hauled his mattress to its new resting place, he carried his "old tick" from his bunk through a rain of straw to the rear of the woodshed, where it was burned. Two months later, the camp received "snow white" sheets for their beds. *The Chatterbox* reported that two clean sheets would be issued each week to every enrollee. This required learning on how to make up a true military style bed—the head of which would display the clean white sheet folded down and the pillow made visible during inspection.[134]

CAMP COOS HEAD # SP–8; COMPANY # 1622

(October 1935–March 1936)

Per usual, the rotation of enrollees occurred with 66 men arriving from Camp Sheridan in October 1935. Within one week of arriving, the entire camp of 215 men was making preparations for the move to Camp Humbug (# SP–6) for the winter. This was the second time the men from Coos Head would spend their winter months at Humbug (and it was of course before Humbug was torn down and the materials used for other camps' buildings, as mentioned in other camp sections). A cadre of fifteen men was sent ahead to prepare the Humbug "ghost camp" for winter occupation as it had lain empty for many months. Once the camp was operational, the plan was to have the boys work on several separate projects—Cape San Sebastian, the Port Orford Cedar project, Battle Rock, and Humbug Mountain trails.[136]

However, the preparations to move the men to Humbug all turned out to be a false alarm as the Camp superintendent notified the men in early November that they would be staying at Coos Head. The advance work done was not in vain however, as Camp Humbug became occupied for the winter by Company # 572 from Priest River, Idaho.[137]

Once again, *The Chatterbox* edition that was printed just before Armistice Day reminded the enrollees of the sacrifices that those that came before them had given:

"...Today, again, there is heard from the eastern horizon the dim rumblings of another conflagration. Throughout the capitols of Europe effort is being made thru that organization of governments, the League of Nations, to stop that conflict thru a medium of economic sanctions. By cutting off from the aggressor nation the necessities of war, the aggressor nation may be brought to terms Some have been declared, some have been applied, before the month is over all will have been applied. These sanctions include refusal to sell all kinds of arms and ammunitions, refusal of credits, of foodstuffs, of all goods that indirectly are needed for

CAMP SCHEDULE

The following camp schedule was posted in *The Foghorn* for all enrollees:

Reveille	6:30 am
Breakfast	6:50
Police Formation	7:20
Sick Call	7:30
Inspection	7:45
Roll Call	7:55
Work Formation	8:00
Lunch	noon
Retreat	5:25 pm
Supper	5:30
Lights out	9:30

carrying on a war. How well these sanctions are effective remains to be seen.

And so, today while we are commemorating the signing of the Armistice and of those who died in the war, let us give some thought to these rumblings from the eastern horizon and the attempt to avert them. The good deeds come before an act and not afterwards…" [138]

As with the other camps, the men of Camp Coos Head were treated to the traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings—200 pounds of turkey and 60 minced pies covered just the basics. Never to miss an opportunity to remind the enrollees that they had a lot to be thankful for, *The Chatterbox* carried several columns on the meaning of Thanksgiving.

By the end of March of 1936, the roads into the Coos Head Park had been completed and the men of Camp Coos Head busied themselves clearing debris caused by the winter storms. They also completed the construction of fences around Cape Arago State Park along with installing cattle guards. Shortly afterward, however, the local paper reported that the future of Camp Coos Head was unknown until action to save it was taken by Congress and state officials. [139]

CAMP COOS HEAD # SP–8; COMPANY # 1622

(April 1936–September 1936)
I have put a reference in here for this camp and Period, for the record. Unfortunately, no further references were found for this Period.

CAMP COOS HEAD # SP–8; COMPANY # 1622

(October 1936–March 1937)
Information about this Period was limited as well, but I did learn that during the winter of 1936–37, the camp was occupied by some 160 CCC men from Company # 1622, all hailing from the state of Texas. On December 5, 1936 they had hardly stored their gear when they were called upon to fight a fire in the town of Charleston a few miles away. Two homes had burned and the fire threatened several more houses, but was quickly contained.[140] No further information was found.

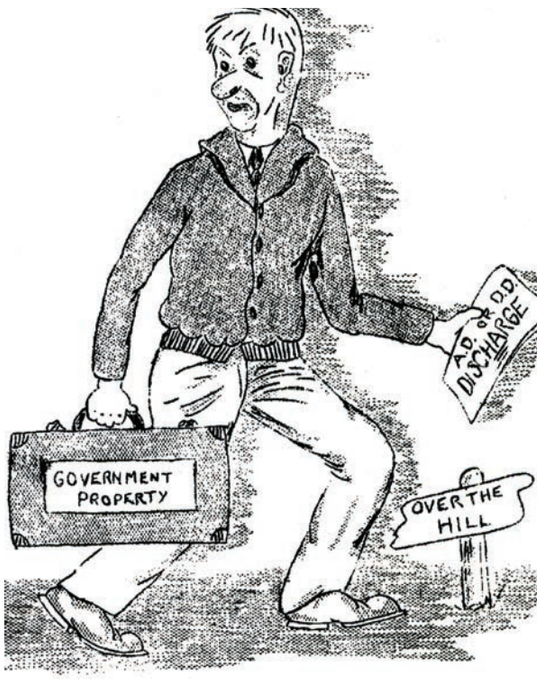
CAMP COOS HEAD # SP–8; COMPANY # 1622

(March 1937–September 1937)
I have put a reference in here for this camp and Period, for the record. Unfortunately, no further references were found for this Period.

CAMP COOS HEAD # SP–8; COMPANY # 5436

(October 1937–March 1938)
Company # 5436 was organized at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia on May 12, 1936. After conditioning at the Fort for thirteen days, the group was transferred to the CCC camp at Bassett, Virginia. In the latter part of September, 1937 field orders were received stating that the company would either transfer the men back to the Corps area from which they originated or be moved to one of the Ninth Corps' Area

The first group of enrollees to arrive at Camp Fairview all came from Nebraska. The special train that transported them west started out with 500 young men on board. All but the 169 destined for Camp Fairview were dropped off along the way at other camps. Adding the "advance unit" of 21 enrollees, plus the 25 Local Experienced Men (LEMs), this brought the camp strength to 215.[142] Courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.



camps out West. Initially, fifty eight men elected to make the trip west while the others were distributed to various camps in the east.[141] In the end sixty-five men were bound for Oregon by train.

On October 12, 1937, these young men from Company # 5436 arrived at the train depot in Marshfield, Oregon. The next month, 104 new enrollees arrived at Camp Coos Head, bringing the total camp strength to 169 young men.

These enrollees decided to change the name of the Coos Head Camp newspaper from *The Chatterbox* to *The Foghorn*. The first edition, Volume 1 Number 1, was published in November 1937. No other editions of the Foghorn were found, however. If they ever existed, they belong to the memories of the enrollees of Company #5436 and the annals of time. Sadly I could only find this one.

CAMP FAIRVIEW

Location: (probably) Section 27, Township 27 South, Range 12 West, Willamette Meridian, Coos County, Oregon

CAMP FAIRVIEW

(June 1933–April 1934)

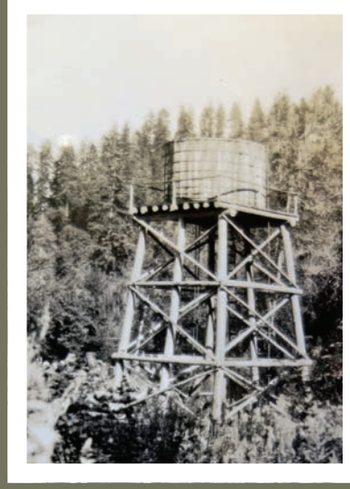
The Fairview CCC camp was located near the North Fork of the Coquille River just a short distance west of the small community of Fairview. This camp was often referred to in the literature as Camp Coquille, but the actual location was between the two communities. (The Fairview Camp was about a mile or so from the point where the Fairview-Lee Valley Road joins the Coquille-Fairview Road.) Access to the camp at first was difficult in the winter due to muddy roads. In the beginning the camp also had no electricity, and lights were provided by gasoline lamps.

TROUBLE IN TOWN?

"...Captain N. E. Callon, in charge of the CCC camp at Fairview, was a guest at the Lions Club luncheon yesterday and spoke interestingly of the camp, the boys, what they are going to do, and he asked co-operation of Coquille citizens when the boys are in town. The first week they were in here, all hours of the day and night, but regulations are now in force which permit them to come in only on Saturday afternoon and Sunday. The Captain warned against the purchase of any government property, the buyer as well as the seller being liable for punishment.

Addressing his remarks to Sheriff Hess, the Captain asked that leniency be shown for the first minor offenses that might be committed. For a second or for a more serious offense, he had no request to make. The boys at the Fairview Camp, all of whom are between the ages of 18 and 25 come entirely from central Nebraska, from farms and towns of 2,000 to 3,000 in population. He has found them a very likeable bunch and easy to get along with, notwithstanding some assignments of punishment duty, such as removing a huge stump at the camp. I want to caution local merchants not to extend credit to the enrollees. Including the fifteen woodsmen from this section, the boys will have a total of around $1,000 to $1,200 per month to spend.

The boys at Fairview Camp are a firefighting unit. About 50 of them are to be sent to a temporary camp near



Top: The initial set up of Camp Fairview. (The mess hall is the long building in the center of the photo. Later, the recreation hall was connected to the end of the mess hall; ca. 1933.) Photo courtesy of Coos Forest Protective Association. Bottom left and middle: Water source for Camp Fairview. The water supply for the camp came from a small stream and was pumped up to the water tower, ca. 1933. Bottom right: The shower house located in the northwest corner of the camp, ca. 1934. Other photos courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

Denmark (Oregon) to assist in fighting any forest fire which may start in that section. Another detachment is to build fire towers, four in number. One of them is to be near Leneve (Beaver Hill area), another near Bridge and a third near Remote and the final one at Broadbent.

Several trucks were here Monday to transport to the McKinley CCC camp the 160 young men who arrived that morning. The boys out there will be engaged in road building the program calling for a road up Middle Creek into the Tioga country.

Captain Callon stated that the camp was in the market for provisions other than staple groceries. He has authority to buy meats, vegetables, fruits, butter, milk, etc. but it will have to be at prices prevailing generally under keen competition. He said that allowance for the camp was 32 cents per day per person…"[144]

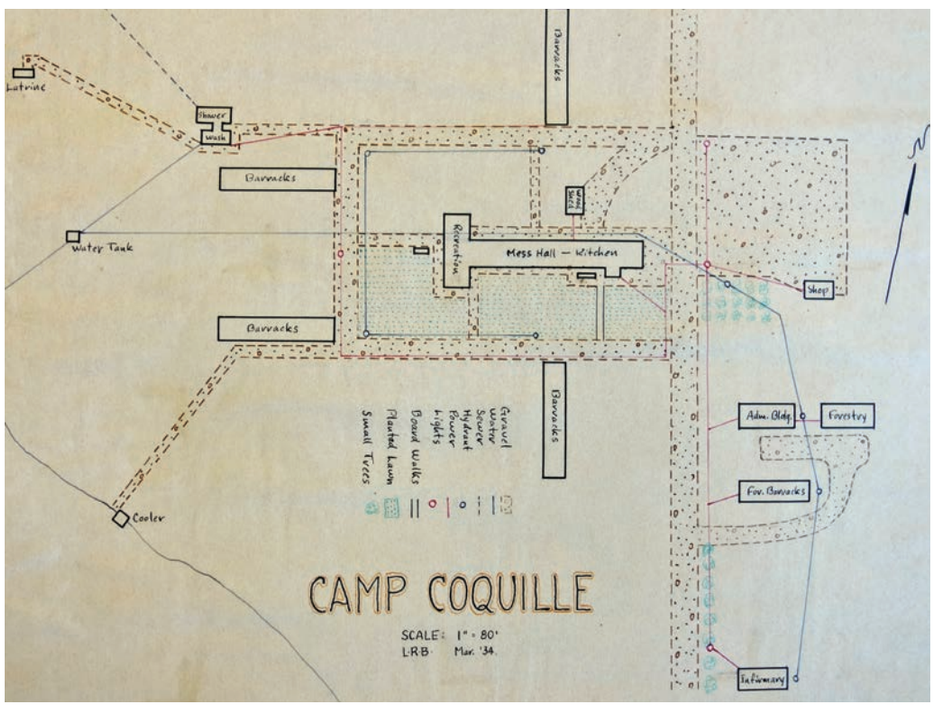
Throughout the summer of '33, twelve local carpenters and the men from the camp were working feverishly to complete ten buildings that would be the permanent camp structures. The lumber for the buildings was supplied by the Coquille Mill Company. Four of the buildings were 98 feet by 210 feet in dimension and built around a square field. The mess hall was built in the center of the square, was 144 feet in length, and butted up in a "T" with the recreation hall, which was 20 feet by 65 feet in size. The administrative buildings were much smaller and were built on the west side of the county road running from Coquille to Fairview.[145]

IMPROVING RELATIONS

On August 8, 1933, The *Coquille Valley Sentinel* carried an announcement that the CCC camp at Fairview would have an open house for the people of the surrounding towns in an endeavor to have a closer friendship and co-operation between the CCC and the local residents. The paper cited that aside from the normal musical tributes, there were two three-round boxing matches and two 11-minute wrestling matches performed by boys of the camp.[146]

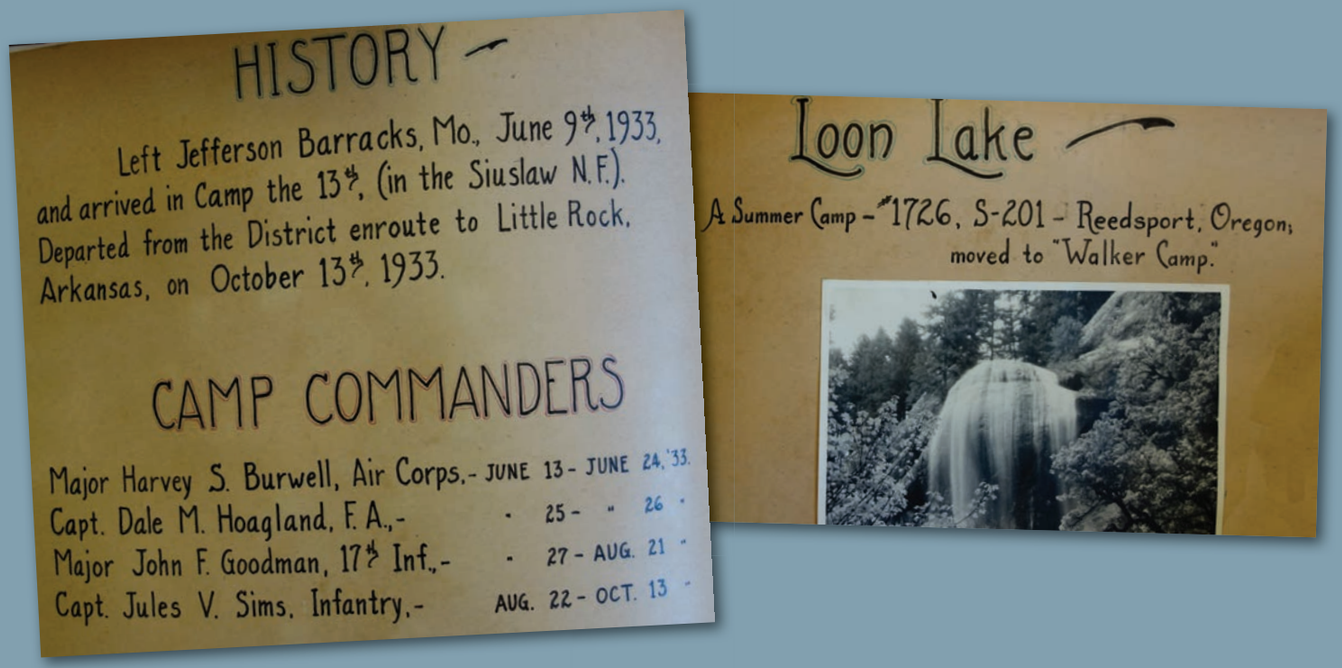
The following month, the Camp again reached out to the community for an open house with athletic events, dinner in the mess hall and a dance. These events seemed to be well received by the local communities.

Camp Fairview was abandoned on April 21, 1934, and the men boarded the train at Marshfield for a trip to a new camp at Sturgis, South Dakota. It appeared that the enrollees



The above map shows the layout of Camp Fairview, a.k.a. Camp Coquille, in March 1934 after all the buildings were erected. Map courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

Blue Ridge lookout tower built by enrollees of Camp Fairview, October 1933. Photo courtesy of the Coos Forest Protective Association.



Top left: According to the retired Elliott State Forester, Jerry Phillips, the first CCC camp to be established in Coos County was at the mouth of Howell Creek. It was known as the Glenn Creek Camp–S # 201 with the enrollees from Company #1726.[17] However, only the locals knew where Glenn Creek was, so most of the members of the Corps simply called it the "Loon Lake" camp, since Loon Lake was only a few miles away and a popular recreation site. Since the designation of the Glenn Creek Camp was an "S", that meant it was a State of Oregon forest camp, and thus the fieldwork would be done on state of Oregon lands, in this case, the Elliott State Forest and supervised by State of Oregon foresters. (The reader is directed to the Appendix for a list of the camp designations and upon whose land they were set up, and upon whose land they would perform their daily projects.) Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

Top right: The enrollees at Glenn Creek did some work in and around what became the Golden and Silver Falls State Park. One of the camp commanders at Glenn Creek made a note on the side of the above photo that this was the most beautiful spot on earth! Ca. 1933. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

Bottom left: Even though the Glenn Creek Camp officially only existed in its original location for a few months, several "permanent" buildings were constructed by the enrollees. These buildings were easily torn down and erected on another site by the Corps; ca. 1933. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

Bottom middle: It appears from the record that once the rain began in the fall of '33 and the access to the Glenn Creek camp became impassable, the majority of the men were moved to Camp Walker S # 202 Company 981, (just over the "hill" from the Glenn Creek Camp) where they began to establish a new camp on the Walker ranch on Schofield Creek.[44] A small side camp was working on the road, but this was only a temporary proposition. When the original Company from Missouri was shipped back south in mid-October of 1933, all the boys left at Glenn Creek were from Oregon.

Bottom right: Camp Glenn Creek as it appeared when it was first established in 1933. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

had completed most of the high-priority work projects before this move was made. The road to the Blue Ridge Lookout was completed; also the Sumner-Fairview Road was put in shape, albeit only for summer travel.[147]

GLENN CREEK CAMP ("CAMP LOON LAKE")

Location: NE ¼, NW ¼, Section 33, Township 23 South, Range 10 West, Willamette Meridian, Coos County, Oregon

GLENN CREEK CAMP ("CAMP LOON LAKE"); S-#201 COMPANY #1726

(April 1933–Fall of 1933)

One story has it that the Corps began setting up the camp before any land survey was done. Shortly thereafter, they found that the camp site was actually located on Weyerhaeuser Timber Company land and not within the boundary of the State Forest. The problem, according to Phillips, was the fact that there was no suitable land well inside the boundaries of the Elliott State Forest to establish a CCC camp. So the Federal government (through the CCC) leased the small parcel of land from the Weyerhaeuser and continued to build the camp Phillips goes on to say that C. F. Bessey, the resident Coos County Road Master, quit his job with the county to become the camp superintendent of the newly planned "Golden Falls CCC Camp."—so named as it was close to what would become the Golden and Silver State Park[148] One begins to realize the difficulty of keeping track of these camps as locals as well as enrollees called the camp by different names—some stuck while others simply passed on the breeze.

CAMP PROJECTS

Work began at the Glenn Creek Camp on May 26, 1933 with only a few enrollees and local tradesmen to get the camp ready for the arrival of 185 men from Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, Missouri, which occurred a couple of weeks later, on June 13, 1933.[149] As soon as the full complement of men arrived from St. Louis, they began working on the roadway that would bisect the Elliott State Forest and tie the Millicoma drainage with Schofield Creek.

The crew from Glenn Creek completed four out of the 24 miles before the winter weather stopped their progress. When completed, the road would wind through the Elliott State Forest and provide a direct outlet from Golden and Silver Falls to Highway 38 to the north. Phillips called this the Umpcoos Ridge Road.

Once the decision was made to abandon the camp on the eastern flanks of the Elliott State Forest, men from Camp Walker dismantled the mess hall at Glenn Creek Camp and used the lumber to build a side camp at Dry Lake.[150]

MCKINLEY CAMP

Location: (Probably) Section 16, Township 27 South, Range 11 West, Willamette Meridian, Coos County, Oregon

MCKINLEY CAMP # GF; 10 COMPANY # 1649

(June 23, 1933–December 21, 1937)

The earliest camp newspaper that I could find for Camp McKinley was printed in May, 1936.[151] The title of the newspaper was *Camp Echoes* with a subtitle "Mother's Day May 10th." It indicated that the men occupying the camp came mostly from Illinois. I could find no earlier papers for the camp, so the story must begin here on Mother's Day, 1936. Supporting the information contained in the newspaper were several letters written back and forth between a Velmont T. Mack and a Richard Hansen. Mack was a CCC enrollee at Camp McKinley and referred to himself and the other enrollees as coming from the central Illinois area.

This edition of *Camp Echoes* focused on the renovation work that had been going on at the camp, reporting: *"... Several references described the construction of the Commander's house as overlooking the stream, but over time, the stream changed course and undermined one corner of the structure..."* Apparently the house never caved in, but when a retiree later visited the site, the old camp Commander's house had burned to the ground sometime earlier.[152]

The next *Camp Echoes* was printed the following month on the three-year anniversary of Camp McKinley (June 23, 1933–June 23, 1936.)[153] It had an entry paragraph to remind the enrollees that the paper was printed for them and their families *"for the promotion of better morals and for good fellowship by and for the Company #1649 CCC Camp McKinley."*

WIZE KRAKS AND LINGO

(a sampling of humor from Camp McKinley "Echoes")

A backwoods woman, the soles of whose feet had been toughened by a lifetime of going shoeless, was standing in front of her cabin fireplace one day when her husband addressed her. You'd better move your foot a mite, maw; your standing on a live coal. Said she nonchalantly: which one, paw?

I heard that Ella had eloped with Brown.
Has her mother for-given them?
I don't think so—she has gone to live with them.

Apparently, the men of Company # 1649 had their own lingo at Camp McKinley. Here are but a few of their choice words; some may take a little deep thought on the part of the reader to understand the connections:

Dynamite–Boom
Grass–Cabbage or lettuce salad
Blankets–Cigarette paper (for rolling your own)
Dog Kennel–Shoes
Fire Stick–Match
Grease Ball–Truck Driver
Hayloft–Bunk or Bed
Pin Cushion–Squirrel or Porcupine
Rake–Comb
Sails–Ears
Shingles–Toast
Shotguns–Trousers
Sin Buster–Minister
Slough Water–Pop
Stiffy–Cigarette
Submarine Turkey–Fish

Captain R. R. Gobeli, Army reserve officer and Camp Commander, offered these words to commemorate the celebration:

"The 23rd of this month marks the beginning of the fourth year of occupation of this camp. The same Company in the same location for three successive years is quite a record. And the record of work accomplished by the organization during that period is one of which every man in this Company may well be proud.

Hundreds of men have come and gone thru the camp in these years, but the organization has been well stabilized. The personnel turnover has not been excessive. A large number of the present members have long service records. These men have seen numerous changes take place. The camp has been changed and improved and there is no doubt presents a better appearance now, than at any time previous. The roads, bridges and trails, woods and mountains on which you men have worked bear the marks of your efforts.

But the greatest changes perhaps are in you. Whether you realize it or recognize it or not, the change is there. For proof of this statement watch the next group of replacements. The change in their physical appearance and bearing in their mental attitude and their viewpoint toward each other and of the world should prove to you that the benefits to young men of your station are limitless.

Let's all strive to make this fourth year the best one yet. —It can be done."

CAMP PROJECTS

The June paper reported that the piling on the nearby Fairview Bridge had been driven and the cribbing on one side was completed. In addition, a "cat" had reached nearby Cold Springs and the men were to be moved to a new spike camp located there in the near future—which generally meant when the weather cleared, thus the roadway construction could proceed without delays caused by rain. A reference is also made to a spike camp at Alder Flats (Tioga Creek or in the Reston area), where men were splitting shakes for the construction of the new Coos Forest Patrol buildings at Bunker Hill.

Top: The rock quarry at Camp McKinley, located in the Middle Creek watershed. Photo courtesy of the Richard Hansen collection; Velmar T. Mack photo, ca. 1935. Bottom left and right: One of the major projects of Camp McKinley was the construction of the 22 miles of the Tioga truck trail (road), which extends from the McKinley County Road, up Middle Creek, through the saddle between the Coos and Coquille watersheds, across to Williams River and on to Melrose. The eastern end of the road was constructed by the Melrose CCC Camp with a spike camp at Tenmile—a small community on the Umpqua River. This road opened up a previously inaccessible section of the Coos River watershed. In 1935, the McKinley-Melrose road was completed.[109, 154] The photo on the lower right is of the Williams River—Melrose roadway after the Irwin and Lyons Company rebuilt the road in the late 1940s or early '50s. Photo courtesy of the Coos Forest Protective Association. The lower left photo shows the CCC truck hauling rock from the quarry on the Middle Creek truck trail during early construction, ca. 1933. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

CAMP DISCIPLINE & FUN

The reader should recall the discussion in an earlier chapter about the level of discipline the army had over the CCC boys in Camp. Essentially the Army Commander could only assess a $3 fine or discharge the man from the Corps—the latter of which would have been caused by some very serious offense. An example of one such disciplinary action was described by the public relations officer at Camp McKinley:

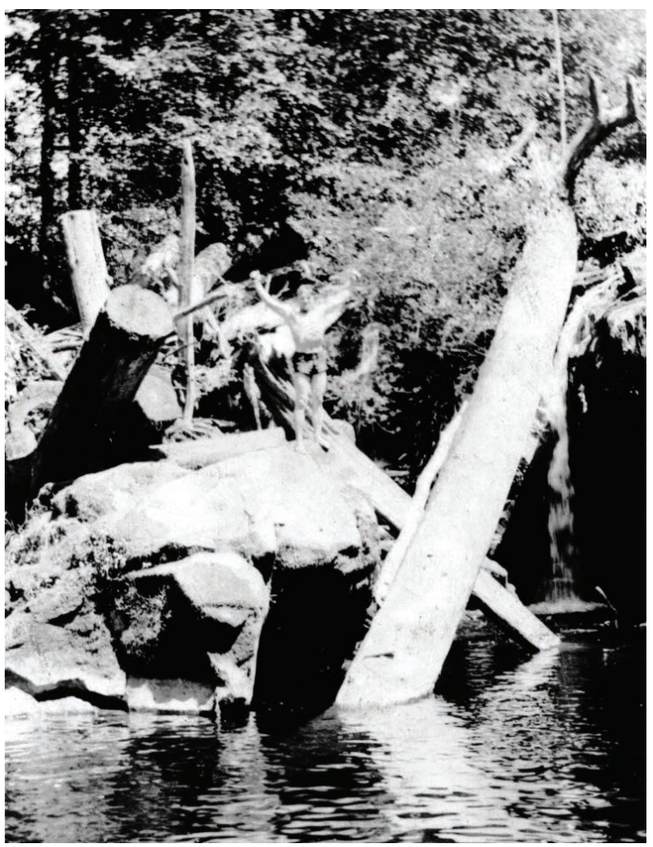
> *"... one of the boys on Kitchen Patrol (KP) was absent when called by the cook at four o'clock one evening and came strolling in at 5:30. His case was acted upon by a kangaroo court and jury and he was sentenced to jump into the cold waters of the creek with his clothes on. He talked the judge out of the part about leaving his clothes on and pleaded that he be allowed to undress at the stream side and then jump into the creek. That request was also granted. He did just that, but when he emerged from the icy stream, he found that his shoes were the only thing remaining on the bank, so he made his way back to the camp in his birthday suit..."*[155]

Speaking of discipline, one of the enrollees at the Camp McKinley was Velmont T. Mack. His main job was driving a truck (called a grease-baller). He also worked in the rock quarry, where they crushed boulders into road rock. It seems that Company # 1649 was made up of young men from the stockyards around Chicago and they were a pretty rough bunch when they first arrived. Mack tells a story about the camp members being banned from attending dances in nearby Myrtle Point, as they were labeled as "ruffians." Just to prove how tough they were, the first dance they attended, they wore their hob-nailed (caulked) boots out on the dance floor.[156]

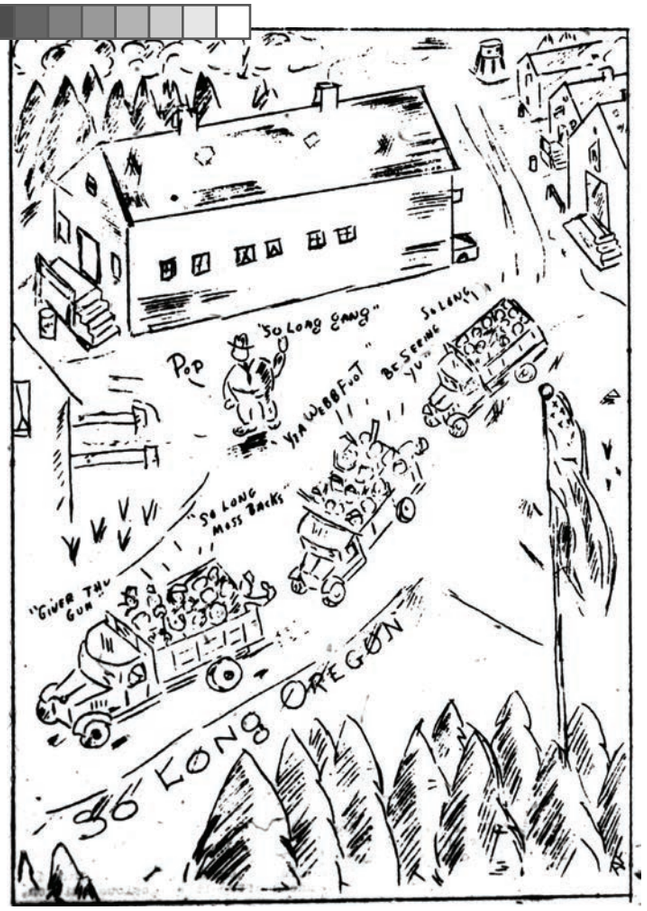
JOKE

Practically every camp newspaper has a page or two devoted to jokes and poetry submitted by members of the camp, and *Camp Echoes* was no exception. Because the papers were meant to be forwarded to the enrollee's family, the jokes were pretty clean, Here is an excerpt of the jests in *Camp Echoes*:

In leap year, women may propose
But still–and here's the sting
The timid bashful victim knows
That he must buy the ring[151]
OR
The saying is that heaven will
protect the working girl, but
who will protect the guy she
is working?



Camp McKinley was one of the fortunate camps to have a perfect swimming hole within walking distance of the camp. It was located near the falls on Middle Creek, and after a long hard day of working in the quarry, many an enrollee enjoyed a dip in the pool. The water was cold, however, and it took determination and discipline to enjoy its benefits. Photo courtesy of the Richard Hansen collection; Velmar T. Mack photo, ca. 1935.



This artist sketch appeared on the final page of the October 1936 edition of CiConCo and depicts the men rotating out of Camp McKinley. The men had gone "above and beyond" in protecting the forests and homes from wildfires. Allen J. Mason, Superintendent of the Forestry projects for the camp, told the men that they had logged 5,000 man days on the fire lines—this was slightly less than two months of normal work for the full camp.

FIRE DUTY AND WINDING DOWN

As the spring of 1936 turned to summer at Camp McKinley, the thought of forest fires began to permeate the men's conversations. They were reminded that *"one tree will make a million matches, but it only requires one match to destroy a million trees".* Little did they know that they would be facing one of the most devastating wildfires to scorch the southwestern part of Oregon, ever—the Bandon Fire Complex.

From July to September of '36, numerous forest fires erupted throughout the region, and Camp McKinley was called out time and time again to fight them. The Commander of the camp (remember, the army personnel do not accompany the men once they work outside the camp boundaries) visited his men who were staying in three separate camps along the fire lines. He was quoted in the camp newspaper as saying: *"I can honestly say that there is not a Company in the entire CCC organization that got out faster, and put out more fire than our gang."* On one such fire, at the Chaney Logging Camp, the full complement of a 24-man crew took just seven minutes to assemble in camp and be on the road to the fire. Over a two-week period in September, the men at Camp McKinley logged *close to two thousand man days fighting forest fires!* The company commander also exclaimed just how exhausted the men were once they returned to McKinley from the fire lines.[158]

Apparently Camp McKinley was in such a location whereby the range cattle from nearby ranches were constantly in the camp. The following news article about fencing off the camp—while a bit romanticized—appeared in the September 1936 edition of CiConCo:

> *"Strategy has been employed in ousting the camp of an undesirable element. A barbed wire fence has been posted around the entire grounds. No more will droves of cattle adorn the scenic confines of cam; no more will be heard the melodious clatter of familiar cow-bells. Slumber shall be preserved. Adventurous heifers will be forced to forgo their nocturnal prancing about on company streets and walks. The Rhythm on the Range shall cease."*[158]

Although I could discern no real reason for it, in October, 1936, word came down that Company # 1649 was being demobilized and Camp McKinley closed.[159] The men would travel to Roseburg to board a train for Camp Sheridan, Illinois on October 12, 1936. Captain Carroll S. Miller, commanding officer of Camp McKinley broke the news to the men in the October edition of *CiConCo*. His praise of this group of men certainly demonstrated his respect for them as individuals and the CCC in general:

> *"...The most surprised person in Camp McKinley, when news of our disbandment came, way your Captain himself. It came as a bombshell! Those of you who do not reenroll will step out from a fine record and let me be the first to wish you men all the luck in the world.*
>
> *Those of you who reenroll will carry on. You will probably be separated from friends and go to different Companies. This will be hard, may break down the old morale, but keep your heads up fellows; there are other good gangs and other fine guys also.*
>
> *And remember fellows, my last parting words to you are–CARRY ON."*

In December 1937 Camp McKinley was occupied by Company # 3558. These boys hailed from Morganfield, Kentucky where their Company was formed in July 1935.[160] As far as I can determine, the boys arrived at Camp McKinley on a regular rotation Period sometime in October 1937. Therefore, I presume that Camp McKinley sat empty for about one year until the new unit arrived. Photo courtesy of the University of Washington Special Collections; C. Kinsey 5546; PH Collection 516, photographer Clark Kinsey.

MCKINLEY CAMP # GF - 10 COMPANY # 3881

(October 12, 1936–December 193731, 152)
I have put a reference in here for this camp and Period, for the record. Unfortunately, no further references were found for this Period.

MCKINLEY CAMP # GLO - 4 COMPANY # 3558

(December 21, 1937–August 31, 1941)
The work projects for the new Company were transferred from the Oregon and California Land Grants (GF) under which Company # 1649 had worked to the Government Land Office (GLO) for which Company # 3558 would work; both agencies were managed by the Department of the Interior (BLM) and the designation of Camp McKinley was changed from # GF–10 to # GLO–4. Yet another example of the complexity of tracking the comings-and-goings from one camp to another!

PRIDE IN A NEWSPAPER

During this period, the McKinley Camp newspaper again got a name change; it was now called the *Myrtle Murmurs*. When the first edition came out under the new organization, the editor wrote that the purpose of the paper was to reflect the life, happenings, and events that took place at Camp McKinley each month. He stated that his hope was to write the content in such a way that the paper would be of a quality journal that each enrollee would be proud to send home to their families. In reading many of the camp newspapers, there appeared to be real competition among the camps to be awarded the coveted title of best paper in the Medford District; the real coup de grace was to have a camp newspaper recognized in the *Happy Days* national news. It was also a custom to share the newspapers from among the camps. As I read the newspapers from each of the camps in southwestern Oregon, it became readily apparent that the editors of each paper were very proud of their work.

On the cover page of the first *Myrtle Murmurs* (July 1938) the Company Commander welcomed the new arrivals from Camp Morgan, Kentucky to the Oregon camp as follows:

NEWSPAPER NAMES

After reading many, many almost unreadable copies of the various camp newspapers supporting this book, I learned that often when a new company moved into a CCC camp, they might change the name of the camp newspaper. In the case of Camp McKinley, it was simply the new company commander who changed the name of McKinley's Camp Echoes to CiConCo. Why? Well here is a rather lengthy story as contained in the August 1936 edition of the camp newspaper:

THE STORY BEHIND THE NEW NAME:[157]

"To those persons who read the bulletin board, it will be remembered that the new Company Commander posted a notice asking for ideas for a new Company design. Days passed and only a few ideas were submitted. Several ideas were excellent, yet not one design had been received that was emblematic of our home State, the Spirit of the Corps, Etc. The Company Commander and his Executive Officer stumbled on to the answer, entirely through accident one day recently. It happened this way.

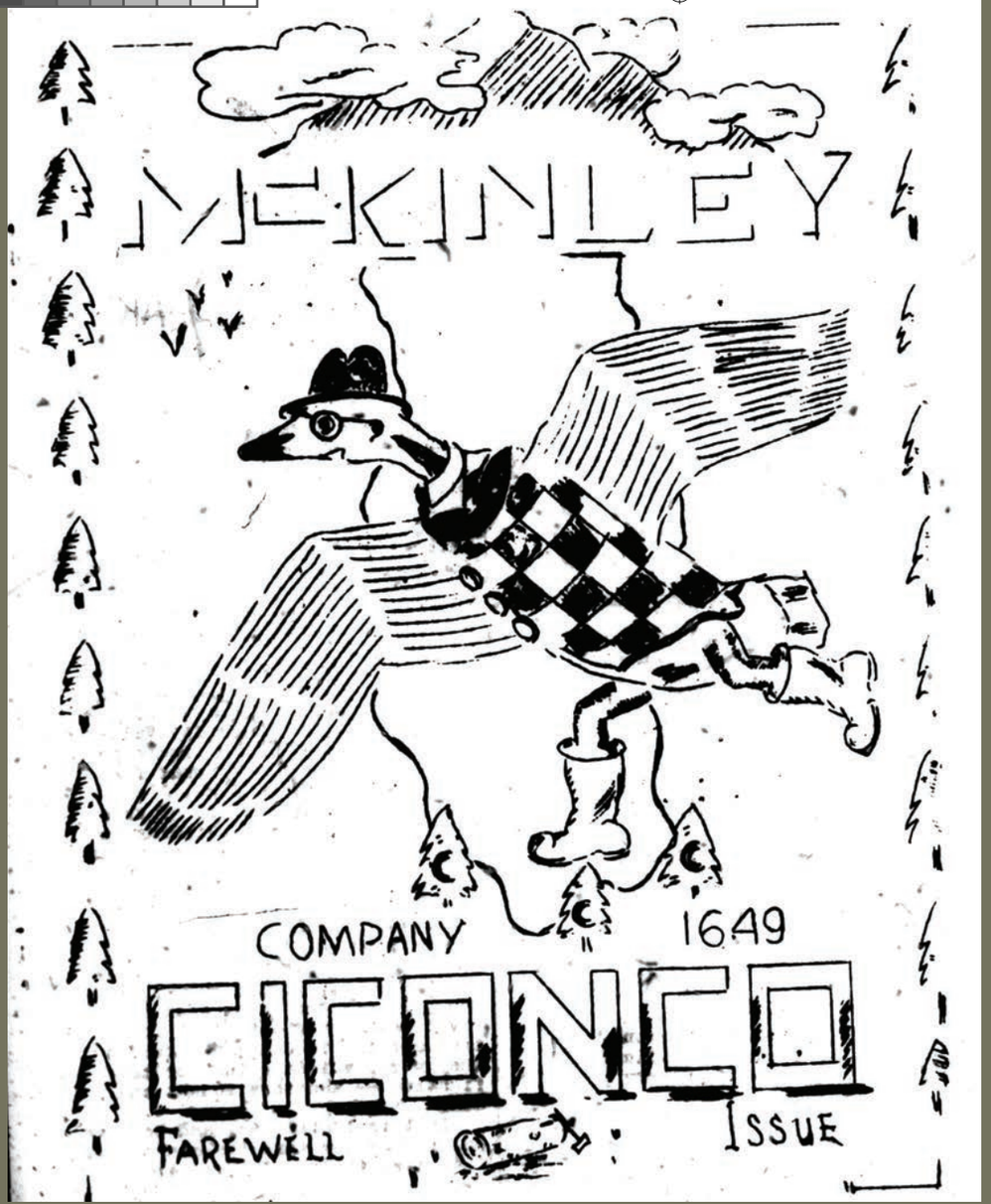
Captain Miller and Lieutenant Neer were investigating the possibilities of installing a water power generator at the falls near Camp McKinley. Suddenly the air was rent with a shrill scream, blood curdling in its ferocity. The air was filled with the whistle of flashing wings. A huge bird, larger than even a large goose, hurtled through space straight for the two officers. Both instinctively dove to the ground. This monster out of the skies swooped by, missing them by a hair. The bird wheeled and again went into that terrific power dive. Again, the whistling of powerful wings and the scream of challenge echoed in their ears. By this time, Captain Miller was on his feet with the small automatic pistol which he carried and fired again and again at the huge thing. Again the bird wheeled and dove at the two, by now, thoroughly frightened officers. As he dove over them, he spat deliberately at them the leaden pellets which Captain Miller had shot at him only a few seconds before.

What manner of creature was this that defied humans that caught leaden bullets in its beak and spat them back at the shooter with force enough to cause them to become imbedded in the trees which line the bank of the stream? This time as he flashed by, he in his anxiety to keep his eyes on the two officers, failed to miss a tall fir tree that stood on the stream bank. He struck it with such force that the top of the tree was literally torn from the trunk and came hurtling to the ground, a few feet from where the interested spectators were standing. Seemingly chagrined by this humiliation, the giant bird took one last dive at the two men, and then disappeared into the distance. As he disappeared, he uttered one lase eerie scream, more blood curdling than anything ever heard before by human ears. Both officers returned to Camp McKinley feeling that no one would believe such a weird tale. They instigated a search for the truth; what sort of bird this was; what its habits were; where it lived, Etc.

One night, while in town, these two officers found the answer. Questioning of old timers of this section of the country revealed nil. Yet, one night, a rumor came to their ears that there lived an old man who had seen such a bird once and knew what it was. Straight to the old man went the curious men.

He was found in a small cabin back in the hills. A battled-scarred, wizened old gent, he was. His right leg was missing and there was a noticeable shortage of a left eye. On the table beside him sat a bottle of half consumed mountain-dew. [Coos County was known for its prolific production of Moon-Shine back in the day.] After the customary introduction, he carefully looked about him and asked Lieutenant Neer to close and lock the door. After this was done, the old man began:

'Twas a weird tale he told. He formerly lived in Illinois, years and years ago. He was employed in a lumber mill near Lake Michigan. One night, he also heard some such a weird terrifying sound and upon investigating came upon just such a creature as has been described in the foregoing. Foolishly, he crept nearer. The bird spied him.



The new Camp McKinley newspaper's cover, August 1936.

Flashing through the air at him, it seized him in its monstrous grip, and carried him off the ground high above the tree tops. As he sped through the air, with its human cargo, he threw back his head and uttered a scream terrifying in its shrillness, and sounding like one word (Woofle-giggle). And then with his bill, he began attacking his cargo. First he struck at him tearing out one eye, another thrust and a leg literally snapped off. Many were the wound inflicted upon the person of his victim, before this man could release the huge clasp knife from its sheath to thrust and parry with it. Evidently, he struck something vital, for the huge bird released its hold upon him and down he came.

Why was he not killed? Well, it seems there was a hay stack lying around that saved his life. Later poring over the tomes at the University of Illinois, the old man discovered he had been playing around with—a CiConCo, no less!!

Dinosaurs, back in the Stone Age, suffered from the 'twidgety jitters' when it was reported that a CiConCo was on the prod for fodder. So, would our two officers make a laughing matter out of their encounter with this dreaded CiConCo? You can ask them about it, but I doubt if they will tell you much. They are afraid they'd be disbelieved."

"...The personnel and the Company members of Camp McKinley wish to extend a hearty welcome to the new men of the company. You are now a part of Company 3558 CCC and will be subject to the same rights and privileges as members of older standing. Along with those rights and privileges go certain obligations. As a member of Company 3558 you are expected to do your part in carrying forward the good name of the Company. You are expected to abide by the rules and regulations which are necessary for efficiency in any group the size of a CCC company.

Under general camp administration the Company First Sergeant will be found the one who can answer most of your questions...

...The mess hall is always a popular place. Good wholesome meals are served, forming a good balanced diet, suitable for the persons doing the type of work our boys have to do...

...The canteen will provide a place where you can purchase candies, tobacco, toilet articles, and most anything necessary to the immediate wellbeing of the boy in camp. The company canteen in a sense is a non-profit making institution, in that most articles can be purchased more cheaply in the company canteen than in town...

...The educational facilities are provided for those who wish to better themselves along educational lines. We have a nice building receiving constant improvement, housing an office, a nice reading room, typing facilities, photographic facilities and classrooms (indications were that the type writers were in constant demand for letter writing)...

...Motion pictures are shown weekly for which a very small charge is made...

PROJECTS: MANY IMPROVEMENTS

From the news contained in the *Myrtle Murmurs*, one gets the sense that a lot of remodeling was going on at the camp. The paper described a new 68' x 20' building being constructed to house the company supplies and a newly constructed barracks building was getting a new coat of paint in the inside. The mess hall got a plywood ceiling and the walls were to be covered with knotty pine lumber. However, the main project undertaken in the camp was to place new foundations under the old buildings that were constructed by the first enrollees at McKinley in 1933. Additionally a new woodworking shop was built near the educational building and equipped with new machinery, and a new steam laundry facility was installed, where the enrollees could have their laundry done for a charge. According to the paper, all of the above camp improvements were: *"...to present an entirely different appearance. A greater pride in having a good looking camp should reflect itself in a greater effort to keep the camp clean and presentable at all times..."*[161]

A FOREST NURSERY

As far as the work projects outside of the camp were concerned, one of the most unusual projects in any of the CCC camps was the forest nursery program at Camp McKinley. The July 1938 *Myrtle Murmurs* described it as such"*...One of the most worthwhile projects of Company # 3558 is that of the two new camp nurseries. The idea of perpetuation and production of timber and timber lands finds strong advocates within the Camp ... It is hoped that the forest nursery work will receive major consideration in allotment of funds and facilities for such a worthwhile project..."*

No further references were found in any of the CCC camp newspapers. Having many times driven the Middle Creek Road that passed by the old McKinley camp, I became convinced as to where this old nursery was located. It has subsequently been re-planted with forest seedlings that have grown into neat rows of sizable trunks.

CAMP LIFE

Enrollee education was definitely "pushed" at the camp. At the bottom of the education column in one of the *Myrtle Murmurs* the camps' education advisor commented: *"...Enroll for your correspondence course now. The more knowledge you have, the better you are equipped to secure employment. Education here costs you nothing, but elsewhere it will cost you money. So if you want to make good use of your spare time, use it for study..."*

Safety was always high on the agenda of the camp's senior managers, as well as the forest rangers who supervised the men on field projects—and it was usually given a full-page spread in the monthly camp paper. Safety meetings were held with the entire camp at least twice monthly. Topics such as working together as teams, lifting techniques, handling all types of tools and materials, wildfire protocol, and being aware of poison oak vines and the consequence of the resulting rash were covered. They also had unannounced fire drills at the camp day or night, and the camp provided regular first

CCC boys stuffing forest seedlings into planting bags. Photo courtesy of USFS.

aid classes, generally taught by the resident camp physician.

On April, 1940 Camp McKinley held an open house for the general public to celebrate the seventh anniversary of the 3-Cs. During the opening ceremony, the camp commander gave a brief history of the camp:

"…Camp McKinley was originally established by the State of Oregon Board of Forestry to construct trails and carry out other development project[s] in the area as well as assisting in the suppression of forest fires. In June 1938, the Camp was transferred to the Oregon and California Revested Lands Administration Office of the Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management). This Agency was formed for the purpose of developing and protecting these lands.

It is the purpose of the men at Camp McKinley to carry out projects on these lands that include the construction and maintenance of roads, horse and foot trails, install telephone lines, hazard reduction work alongside existing roadways, fire prevention measures and of course fighting forest fires…

Camp McKinley has just completed its second season of reforesting denuded publically-owned forest lands. In the past two planting seasons, the men at Camp McKinley and Camp Sitkum have planted over 600,000 seedlings. The seedlings are being supplied by the forest nursery buil[t] by the Camp in support of this effort.

In addition, the boys built the camp-grounds along Middle Creek and another at Cherry Creek…"[162]

In July, 1941 Camp McKinley was officially closed as a main camp and became the second side camp of Camp Sitkum.

The CCC nursery built and run by Camp McKinley continued to operate after the official closure, as did its reforestation program.[163] And in September of '41, fifty young Port Orford Cedar and ten Ponderosa Pine seedlings from McKinley were sent to Washington D.C. to plant on the grounds of the Department of the Interior.[164]

By November, 1941 the McKinley nursery made plans to double its capacity from one million seedlings to two million with a mixture of species. They had secured seeds from the Giant Redwood *(Sequoia Gigantia)* from a source near Yosemite National Park. They also obtained a bushel of cypress cones. The major species that the nursery planted were Port Orford Cedar (1.5 million seedlings) and Douglas fir (500,000). The seedlings were used to plant logged—over lands as well as burned forest lands of the USFS and the BLM. Taking a swipe at the national debt of the country, the editor of the *Sitkum Flash* (the newspaper from Camp Sitkum) wrote:

"When one considers that these trees, at maturity are worth about $25.00 on the stump, one can see that the Sitkum CCC's investment in the future will never make a nick in the national debt."[165]

The approximate value of a Douglas-fir tree planted back in 1941 would be around $ 500–$600 on the stump (73 years of age in 2014 would be approximately 24" in diameter and 160 feet tall; it would contain around 900 board feet of usable lumber.) Foresters today generally compute the annual return on investment from owning timberland at 5% to 7%.

PISTOL RIVER CAMP

Location: (probably) Section 29, Township 38 South, Range 15 West, Willamette Meridian, Curry County, Oregon

PISTOL RIVER CAMP–COMPANY 1922

July 1933–

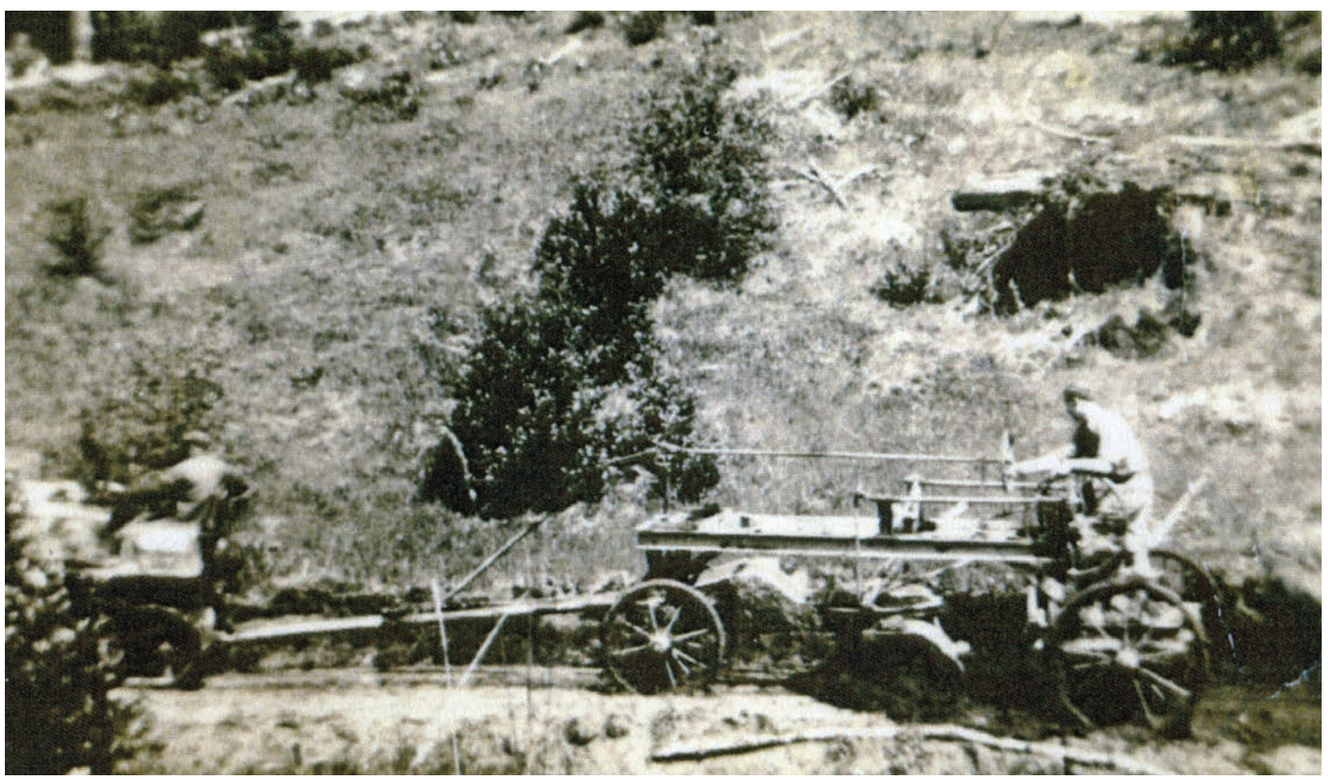
VETERANS AND WOODSMEN

The Pistol River CCC camp was established in July 1933. It was located alongside the Pistol River and composed exclusively of 200 war veterans and 40 experienced local woodsmen who had been recruited from the surrounding Curry County region; eight Forest Service officials made up the full complement of the camp. While the camp was ready in June 1933, the full complement of enrollees did not arrive until July. An open house was held on the fourth of July ending with a dance in the new mess hall that evening. The enrollees planned to have a dance that was open to the public every Saturday.[166]

CAMP PROJECTS

During the fall of '33, the Pistol River CCC enrollees were engaged in building a road from Pistol River north along the divide between the North Fork of Pistol River and Hunter's Creek. However, the camp's main project was to build a truck trail between the nearby towns of Carpenterville and Agness. In October, the camp was moved from its first location at the forks of the Pistol River to a new site near the coast highway (101) for winter quarters.

In the summer of 1934, the Pistol River Camp was populated with approximately 100 enrollees from Josephine County, Oregon. The camp undertook several projects that summer: two spike camps were built: one up stream on the Chetco River above the town of Brookings-Harbor, and one on the Winchuck River. The main projects for both camps involved significant road construction.[167] A mess hall was constructed along with several tent frames for the



Building the road into the Pistol River Camp, ca. 1934. Courtesy of Curry County Historical Museum.

A bird's eye view of the Pistol River Camp; ca. 1936. Courtesy of Curry County Historical Museum.

men's' canvas sleeping quarters; a water supply was piped in for the main camp; Since the camp had no machinery, this three-mile stretch of roadway had to be carved out of the brushy flats using only hand tools (once the camp received a trailblazer "50" bulldozer, the work on the road went much faster). Another camp crew completed a 73-foot bridge over the Deep Creek Canyon using Port Orford Cedar log stringers 20-30 inches in diameter. Once they finished the bridge over Deep Creek, the crew moved on to construct a fire lookout tower at Cold Grove near Carpenterville, called the "Three Tree Lookout."[168] It was quite a busy summer!

Another project undertaken by the enrollees at Pistol River was to improve the 28 miles of roadway alongside the Chetco River. The Curry County Reporter carried an article about the road that contained the following information:

"...To anyone doubting the material benefits derived by Oregon communities from the conservation camp work, a trip up the once nearly impassable Chetco River road will prove highly enlightening. Men from the Pistol River camp composed mostly of war veterans. The road which winds through the Chetco Valley was years back kept up by the County, but due to insufficient funds, the county no longer maintains it.

Much of the road has been graded by the veterans in such a manner that it will be passable this winter for its entire length. The recent heavy downpours which made travel over nearly all of the back country roads impassable seemed to have but little effect on the work done by the veterans. And it is especially pleasing that it cost the county nothing..."[169]

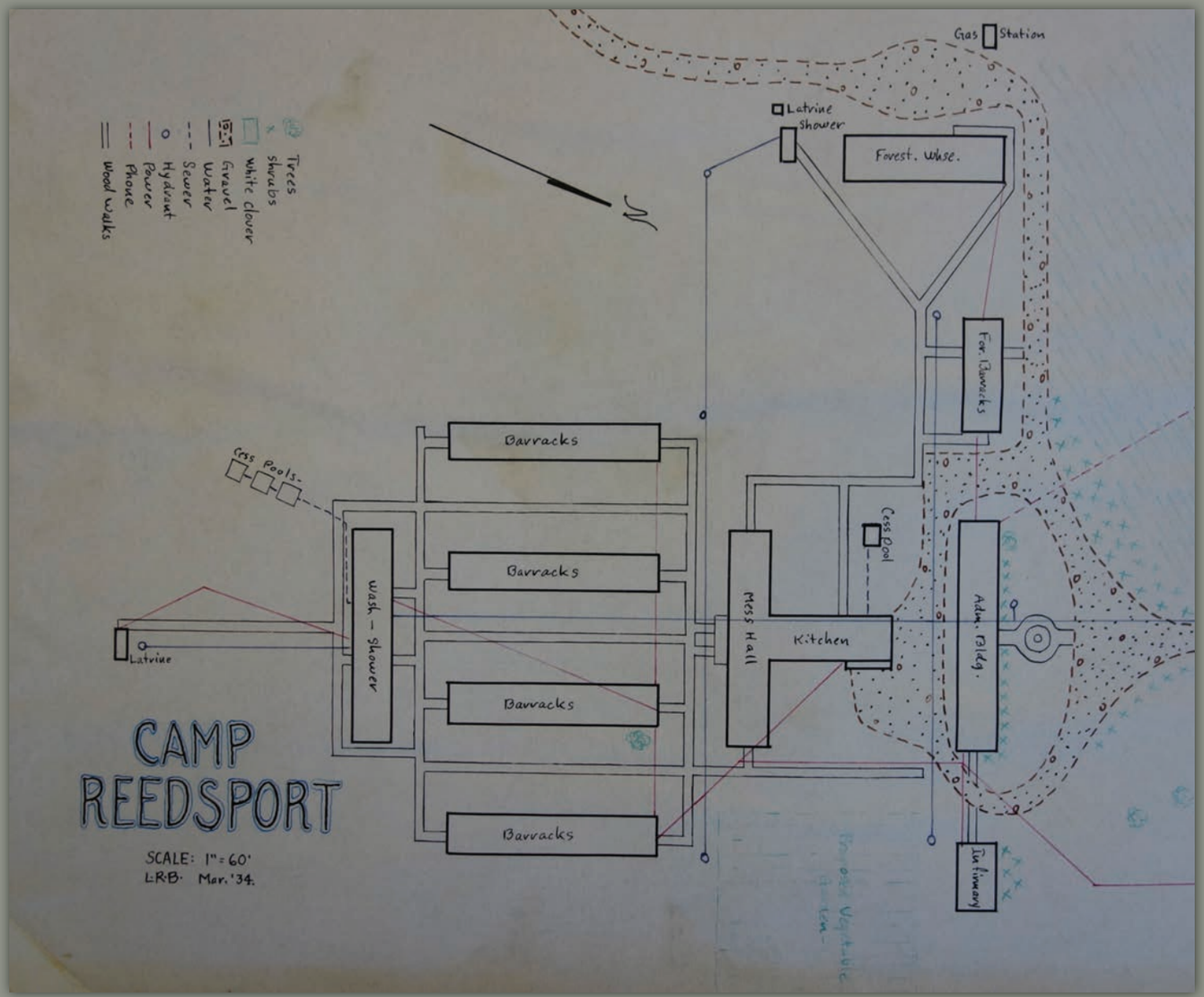
As previously noted, the boys were exposed to all manner of new experiences at the camps. A rather surprising story was reported in the *Grants Pass Daily Courier* on June 25, 1934: *"...A number of boys of the Pistol River Camp were sitting on the board walk along Company Street waiting for the breakfast gong (being about 6:15 am) when they sighted a dirigible—the USS Macon–ZRS-5. It was about a mile off shore, but could be easily seen as the sun reflected from the silvery sides..."* One can imagine how fascinating the modern flying machine was to the enrollees.

REEDSPORT CAMP

Location: Section 4, Township 22 South, Range 12 West, Willamette Meridian, Douglas County, Oregon

REEDSPORT CAMP # P - 228
COMPANY # 981
(May 1933–April 1934)

The layout of Camp Reedsport in March 1934. Note to reader: the map was not drawn in the traditional way with the top of the page being North. In this case, the North Arrow is pointing to the side of the map. The camp lay on the east side of the coast highway 101. Map courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.



Clockwise: Camp Reedsport, ca. 1934. The long building in the front left is the administration building; to its immediate right is the forestry building with the forestry warehouse to its right. The barracks are behind these buildings in the background.

The Reedsport Camp had excellent educational facilities and a quiet reading room that doubled as a recreation hall. The kitchen and mess hall were fairly typical of the later camps built in the area, ca. 1934.

The inside look at one of the barracks at Camp Reedsport; ca. 1934. Note how rudimentary the construction is and the use of the older style double-bunk beds. The latter allowed for more men to be housed in a single building. It is little wonder that these camps could be partially or fully torn down and reassembled on another site when a full complement of 150–200 men are available for the work, ca. 1934.

Photos courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

When the boys moved from the CCC camp at Steamboat, Oregon, they kept the same sign, but simply changed the camp entrance designation to "Camp Reedsport," ca. 1934.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION WORK

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON, D.C.

EMERGENCY
APR 15 1935
RECEIVED
CONSERVATION WORK

FILE REFERENCE: Camp Walker, S-204, Co. 981, Reedsport, Oregon, 4/9/1935.

Mr. Robert Fechner, Director,
Emergency Conservation Work,
Washington, D.C.

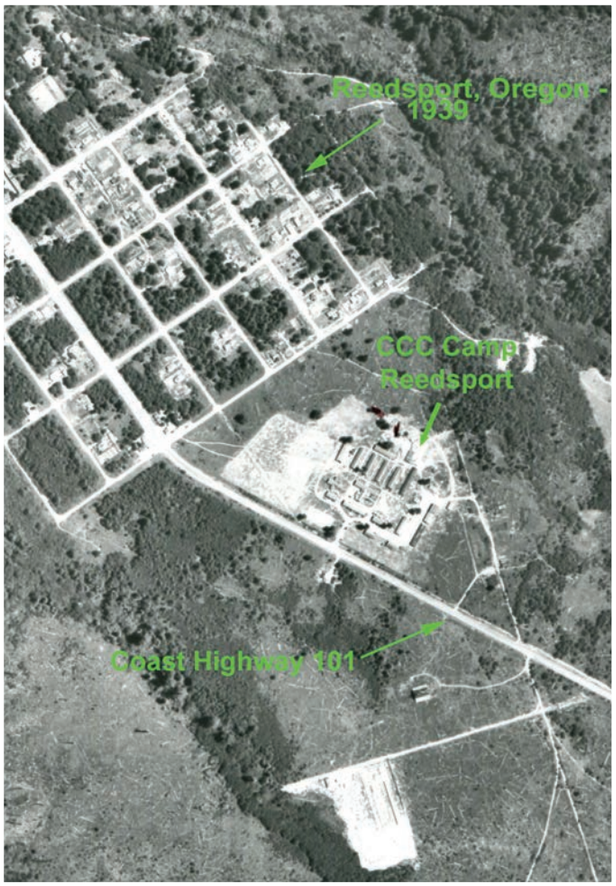
Dear Mr. Fechner:-Attached please find camp report, army and forestry personnel, education advisers letter, and menus for the above camp. All buildings were constructed in 1933, are in good condition, wired for lighting, adequately heated, and three 2 K.W. lighting plants installed. Wood is used exclusively for fuel.
Healt:-Four men in quarters, one in hospital, health otherwise excellent. During the past fifteen months there have been two cases of venereal desease. First aid and safety lectures are given each week. Have an excellent infirmary--dispensary, in fact as good as I have seen.
Religion:-Services held at camp weekly, transportations Sundays.
Educational:-Full issue received for library, newspapers, magizines, and read by all. Principal outdoor games are, baseball, horseshoes, boxing, fishing, and basketball. For indoor entertainment have an excellent recreation hall, with fireplace, piano, radio, ping pong, pool table, benches and chairs. Movies are shown free each week. Some other form of entertainment or dance is also given several times each month. Reasonable transportation furnished for recreation.
Attached please find letter from educational adviser.
Work Projects:-The following work has been completed since camp was established, 22M. tel. line, 9M trail side clearing, 13M truck trail, 71 ac. reduction fire hazard, and following maint. work, 145M tel. lines, 16M truck trail and 75M horse trail. In addition to the above work 1180 Man days were spent fighting forest fire. Men are reported as very satisfactory. Chev. trucks preferred to other makes of trucks.
Co-operation between officers and forestry satisfactory.
Camp overhead 24, and includes assistant to adviser. Operating economically, and mess account in satisfactory financial condition. The milk is not pasteurized but is inspected regularly at District Headquarters, also the dairy herd is state inspected. Served daily.
Other supplies, adequate, and of good quality. Company operates its own laundry and all clothes are laundred for fifty cents monthly per man. None of the enrollees have pillows or pillowcases. There are no communistic activities in camp. Morale of enrollees good. The camp is also free from bedbugs and other vermin. The camp in general is in excellent condition.

Trusting the above is satisfactory, I am,

Sincerely yours,

M. J. Bowmen

As time went by and the main camp began to take shape, Director Fechner sent M. J. Bowmen to conduct a thorough investigation of Camp Walker in the spring of 1935. Note the reference in Bowmen's letter that he observed no communistic activity in the Camp. There are lots of other interesting tidbits in the letter, such as their preferred truck (Chevy) and that none of the men had pillows.



Left: As mentioned earlier, there was a CCC camp (# F-70) in the town of Reedsport at the same time that Walker Camp # S-204 was in existence. In 1937, the projects were completed for the USFS from the Reedsport Camp and the enrollees moved out. That left the Reedsport camp empty. Working out of the Walker Camp site was a challenge in the winter, since the roads turned to deep mud and were frequently impassable. So the Oregon boys at Camp Walker were hastily moved to Camp Reedsport in October 1937—retaining the same company name but changing the camp designation to Camp # S-228. Aerial photo, 1939; courtesy of the University of Oregon.

Below: In 2004, The National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni (Chapter 4—Oregon) erected this plaque. The inscription reads: This is dedicated to the young men who lived and worked on this site between 1933 and 1941. The Civilian Conservation Corps was an outstanding government program which provided young men an opportunity to work on conservation projects in the National Forests and National Parks throughout the United States. Based at Camp Reedsport and other camps, these young men built our forest roads and trails, planted trees, saved our forest from fire and cities and towns from floods. Their experience shaped much of their personal work habits and their moral and psychological character as well. The nation and indeed each of us who reads this, owes this generation a debt of gratitude.

WALKER CAMP

WALKER CAMP # S-204
COMPANY # 981
(October 1933–September 20, 1937)

Location: SE ¼ SE ¼, Section 18, Township 22 South, Range 11 West, Willamette Meridian, Douglas County, Oregon

The Forest Log—the official newsletter of the Oregon State Forestry Department— described Camp Walker with rather idyllic language as follows:

"...The attraction of this part of Douglas County lies in its wildness, its hunting and fishing. Herds of elk, deer and other animals are seen in the vicinity of the camp's location.

It is this primeval atmosphere that Camp Walker is located on an ancient homestead located on Schofield Creek. Rows of old apple, pear, and plum trees line the campsite, for it was built in a 50-year old orchard. Located on a gentle western slope facing a steep hillside thickly covered with fir, hemlock, cedar and spruce timber never touched by the woodsman's axe. Mixed with the dark green of these valuable, marketable trees, one sees the lighter green of alder, cherry and willow which makes a varied pattern pleasing to the senses..."[170]

Once again, the modern authority on the Walker Camp on Schofield Creek is the retired Elliott State Forester Jerry Phillips. His book (printed in 1997) *Caulk Boots and Cheese Sandwiches* encompassed over ten years of diligent research and writing to capture the nature of the CCC camp and the work done on the State Forest. There is very little I can add to this exhaustive research, so the narratives that follow are directly excerpted from Phillip's book, except where new information became available, and that will be noted.

Camp Walker was occupied its entire existence (1933–1937) by CCC Company # 981 with all the enrollees coming from Oregon. When Company 981 left the Walker Camp in 1937, they simply moved into a vacant parcel of land in the town of Reedsport, Oregon. From this main camp, they conducted numerous projects on the Elliott Forest and spike camps worked on other projects within reach of Reedsport. The Reedsport Camp was shuttered on November 18, 1941.

The first contingent of Company # 981 was assembled at the Vancouver Barracks in Washington on May 15, 1933. On that day, they travelled by train to Camp Maury, near Prineville, Oregon and worked on projects in and around that area all summer. In mid-October, they re-boarded a train for the trip to Reedsport. The company "book" says that they arrived at the site where they were to build Camp Walker on October 12, 1933, pitched their tents in a nearby field, and before many days, had a credible camp built. The flag was officially raised over Camp Walker on November 25, 1933.

CAMP PROJECTS

As the men from Company 981 continued to build the Umpcoos Forest Road (also called Schofield Ridge Road), there were several "spike" camps set up to make their work on the road more efficient and reduce the travel time. The two main spike camps were called Mud Flats and Dry Lake.

The work was tough. As reported by the State Forester in his 25th Annual Report: *"due to the large amount of rock work involved, this road construction project was one of the most difficult work assignments facing any of the state camps in Oregon."*

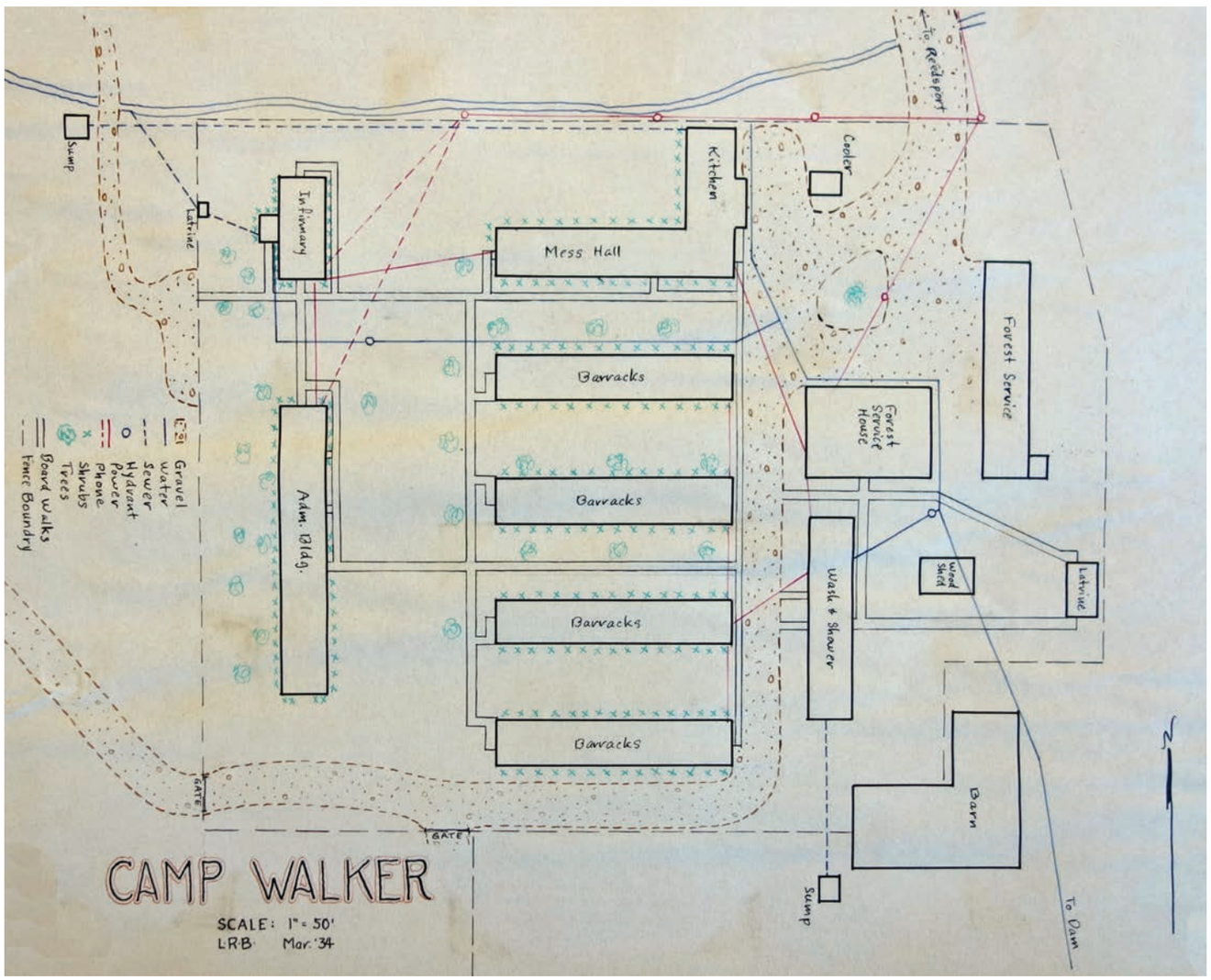
AIRPORT LANDING STRIP

Another important project undertaken by the Company was the clearing and construction of an airport landing strip at Lakeside, Oregon, a small town located some 10–12 miles south of the Reedsport Camp.[171] The local Reedsport newspaper, *The Courier,* noted the following:

May 10, 1937 — "A 24-acre airport is under construction at Lakeside. The land was donated by the City of Lakeside and will become a permanent property of the State Forestry Department. It will be used for air patrol planes. Fifty-four men from Camp Reedsport and ten from the Marshfield spike camp are doing the work." (There was also one "50" Caterpillar which is being used at the field to stack twenty cords of wood from one acre of ground. Two other Caterpillars were sent to the site later to speed the construction work.)[172]

August, 1937 — "As of August 1, the Lakeside Airport could be used, although it is incomplete, and all crews were taken away for other work in the Elliott State Forest... The newly built airport at Lakeside is being used by the Coos Forest and Protection Association and also by people who wish to visit Currier Village for fishing vacations."

Camp Walker # S–204 Company # 981, ca. 1934. Photo courtesy of Glenn Howell.[38]



The layout of Walker Camp in March 1934. Courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

JOKE

As with the other camp newspapers, Camp Walker's, *Trailsend*, regularly carried jokes and poetry that the enrollees would submit to the editor. The following was submitted in the "Camp Chatter" section of *Trailsend* on September 15, 1937:

Hatcher: (over the telephone):

"Is this The Salvation Army?"
"Yes."
"Do you save bad women?"
"Yes."
"Well save me one for Saturday night. I'm coming to town."

November 22, 1937–"Reports that the CCCs are back on the Lakeside Landing field again. Likely they became mudded out of some other work probably the road on the ridge."

May 29, 1938 — "The new Lakeside Airport was dedicated. It has some 4,100 feet of runway. A large fleet of aircraft from Oregon and California arrived to celebrate. The airport will not handle mail for Reedsport."

The landing strip is 3,629.7 feet long, 250 feet in width at its narrowest point at the north end of the of the field, and 508 wide feet at the south end. A 230-foot-wide runway was graded down the center of the field and a county road was constructed along the east side of the field.

In March '38, a "Carry-all" machine (a specially designed bottom-dump truck) was sent from Salem to assist with the construction of the airport. The machine was capable of moving 250 to 300 cubic yards of dirt per day. The March '38 camp newspaper—*Trailsend*—reported that 1,000 cords of wood were obtained from clearing the site for the airport. The wood was used at the main camp and the side camp at Marshfield (Bunker Hill).[143]

Due to the amount of work the enrollees from Camp #204 performed constructing the Lakeside airport, it's surprising that there was no side camp established at the town of Lakeside—about 10 miles to the south of their camp at Reedsport. But I found no record of one.

The Lakeside airport is still in use today. It is a simple strip with a grass runway. There are a couple of small hangers there and often one can see an "ultra-light" taking off for a joy ride. The *Reedsport Courier* newspaper indicated that Tom Harahan was the camp superintendent in charge of building the airport.

In addition to the construction of the airport, the Reedsport Camp also built the bridge across the creek that ran between North Tenmile Lake and South Tenmile Lake—the area is now known as "the channel" between the two lakes. As the bridge was being built, five members of the CCC road crew were blasting stumps from the road right-of-way that was known as the Lakeside-Trail Butte truck road as it headed up the hill from the bridge.

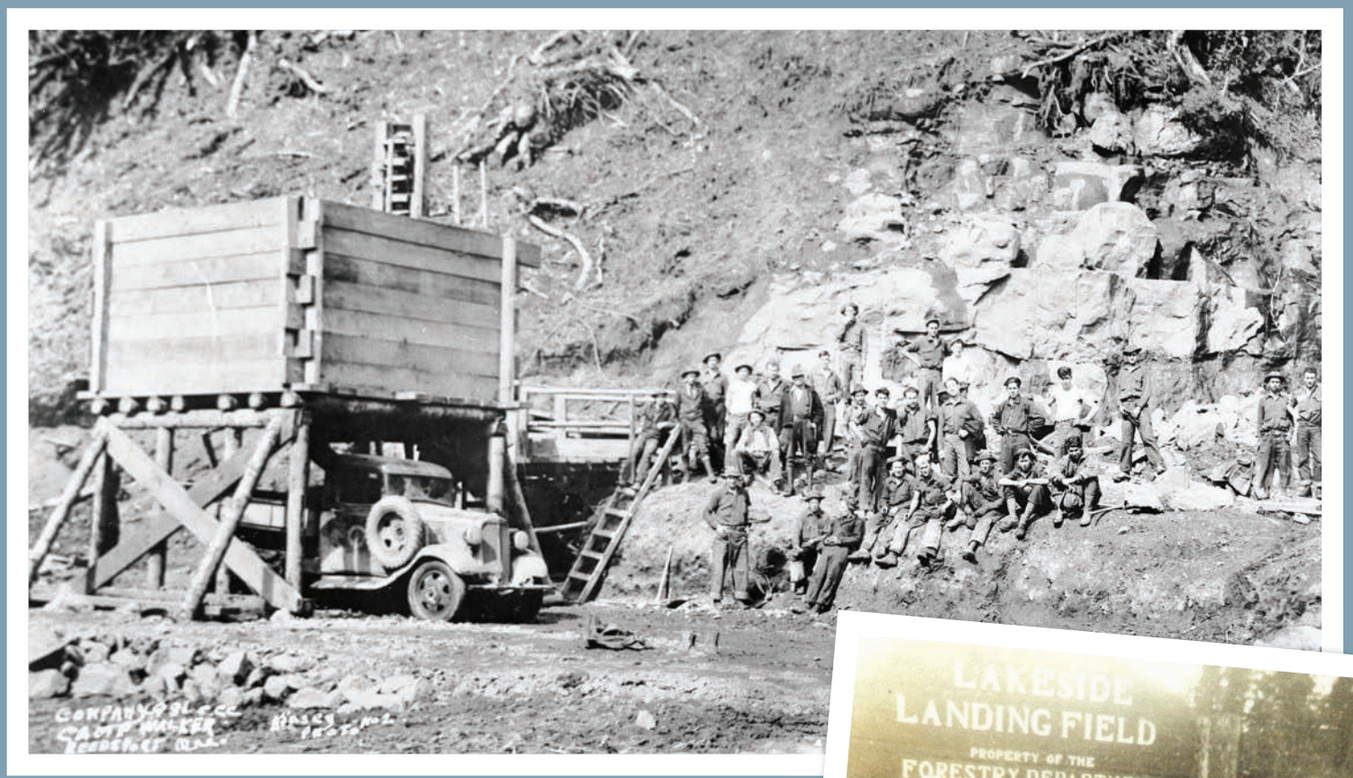
And in the summer of 1940 and '41, the Gold Beach headquarters buildings of the Coos Forest Protective Association were constructed by Company # 981 as a side camp from Camp Reedsport. The buildings consisted of a three-room residence, a six-car garage and a warehouse, as well as a five-room guard station at Brookings, Oregon. The crew from Reedsport also began construction of a 30-man crew quarters at the Association headquarters in Marshfield. That building was completed in the winter of 1942.[173]

REEDSPORT CAMP # P - 228 COMPANY # 596

(November 1941–June 30, 1942)

Camp Reedsport was one of the last camps to close in Oregon. It was officially closed on June 30, 1942 and much of the camp's equipment was moved to the Coos Forest Protective Association site at Coos Bay—the original CCC side camp on Bunker Hill. The service of the boys from Camp Walker and Reedsport was commendable and the local World newspaper carried the following article about erecting a plaque at the Reedsport high school to honor the CCC boys who served in that region:

There is no evidence of the old camp today. Its barracks were town down decades ago. Its machinery removed by some government agency. All the men are long gone. In their place is Reedsport Junior/Senior High School, ringed by lush green carpet of grass and a noisy highway. But at the school, there is evidence that the Civilian Conservation Corps occupied the same space more than seven decades ago.



Clockwise from top:
Rock Crusher and dump truck at Camp Walker rock quarry, Company # 981. Photo courtesy of Douglas County Museum #4938.
Dedication of the Lakeside Airport, ca.1938. Photo courtesy of Jerry Phillips.
Camp Walker; photo courtesy of Douglas County Museum #4939.
The CCC road crew from Camp Walker on the Umpcoos Ridge Road, June 1935. Photo courtesy of Jerry Phillips.

On Saturday, three grizzled representatives of a generation that left behind forest roads, park trails and telephone lines on the South Coast inaugurated a poster-sized plaque honoring the men who served the CCC from 1933 to 1941. One of those present, Orbie Hoffman, clutching his high school diploma earned from the original Reedsport High School said that the CCC made me what I am today…"

MARSHFIELD SIDE CAMP–COMPANY # 981

BUNKER HILL (1936)

Location: Section 36, Township 25 South, Range 13 West, Willamette Meridian,Coos County, Oregon

Further south, there was a side camp set up at Bunker Hill at the south end of the town of Marshfield (which became Coos Bay in 1944), where the enrollees from Camp Walker built the Coos Forest Protective Association buildings atop the hill. Had the crew from Camp Walker attempted to build the facility from their main camp on Schofield Creek, it would have been a long muddy trip down the Schofield Creek Road, then on to the town of Reedsport, then to Marshfield along the coast highway some 25 more miles distance.

As reported in the *Coos Bay Harbor* newspaper: *"A side camp was established in 1936 out of the Walker CCC camp and work started. A bulldozer was called into action which was used in clearing the site of brush, trees and logs. This work also involved cutting down the top of the hill in order to create room for the new buildings. The Coos Fire Patrol (Coos Forest Protective Association) is one of the oldest organizations of this nature in the state having been created in 1910. It patrols over a million acres of forest land in the region which includes the Elliott State Forest land."*

Not only were the enrollees of the various camps sprinkled throughout the Coos Forest Protective Association (CFPA) district constructing roads, bridges, lookout towers, trails, and buildings, they were also the main source of labor for the CFPA for fighting wildfires. The 1933 annual report from Mr. J. A. Walsh (District Fire Warden of the CFPA) commented:

"…Expenditures made on account of the 1933 season total $16,175.09, far less than the amount usually expended during the average normal fire season, and less than a quarter of the amount expended last year. This showing is, of course, partly due to the favorable season, but the greater measure of credit is due to the arrangement under which it was possible to handle practically all fires with CC labor, and to the fact that many members of the Association's field force were taken into the Conservation Camps as foremen, were paid by the government and continued available for firefighting and patrol work…"

Year after year, the annual report of the District Fire Warden from the Coos Forest Protective Association praised the competency and association between it and the men of the surrounding CCC camps. In the 1935 report, for instance, the report summarized the fact that a total of 115 fires originated on the district and were either partially or entirely suppressed by the 3-Cs*: "…the report went onto say that the work of Camps Bradford, Walker, McKinley, Sitkum, Coos Head and China Flats in combating the blazes was very commendable…"*

BANDON/FOUR MILE SIDE CAMP (MAY 1937–1941)

Location: Section 1, Township 30 South, Range 15 West, Willamette Meridian, Coos County, Oregon

The Bandon side camp, or as it was also called, the Four Mile Camp, was located about four miles south of the town of Bandon, Oregon. The term "Four Mile" was an inaccurate term and was supposed to be the distance from the Coquille River south to a small drainage stream called Four Mile. However, the actual distance is a bit more than four miles, but considering the equipment used to determine distances at the turn of the twentieth century, a little latitude is understandable. For reference purposes, the identification of the camp was called by both names—Camp Bandon or Camp Four Mile. There are still a couple of old CCC buildings at the site that are used by the Coos Forest Protective Association today.

It seemed that the only major sporting event that occurred at the Bandon Camp was basketball; each edition of the camp newspaper, the *Sea Breeze* devoted a lengthy column to the performance of the team. Basketball's popularity was undoubtedly due to the small number of men in camp and the small number of men required to staff a team; fewer than most any other sport—save boxing. The scores were nothing to boast about, but the team often came away

victorious and the camp sport's writers really filled the space in the paper with accolades. For example, scores such as the game against the Gold Beach Red Devils, 33 points to 19, brought effusive metaphors in the paper.

The basketball team really got going when it scored 55 to 12 against the Port Orford High School "reserves"; however the Hoopsters were humbled when they lost to the high school regular team 35 to 20. Beating the boys from Camp Agness twice was a real feather in the Bandon team's cap, even with winning scores such as 28 to 18. However poor the basketball scores were, though, Four-mile beat the boys from the bigger camps at Sitkum (29 to 24) and McKinley (39 to 34) and gave them a shot at the zone championships against the boys from China Flats. The men from Four Mile won the Medford District basketball championship and that was an honor worth crowing about! When the paper added up the statistics for the entire 1935–'36 basketball season, the Bandon Camp Hoopsters had outscored their opponents 535 points to 375.

PORT ORFORD SIDE CAMP # S.P.–6 COMPANY # 572

(June 1933)

Location: Section 29, Township 32 South, Range 15 West, Willamette Meridian, Curry County, Oregon

On June 29, 1933, the District Fire Warden from the Coos Forest Protective Association at Marshfield, along with three officers from the CCC camp at McKinley, visited Port Orford to determine if the parcel of land north of town was suitable for a CCC camp. It was determined that the site was indeed suitable for a side camp of 50 men, and the officers decided that a camp should be established immediately. Work on clearing the site had been started by the state highway commission a couple of years earlier as emergency work, but had never been completed. The enrollees of the new side camp would complete the project. The camp was composed entirely of ex-servicemen; at the time, this was the only one of its kind in Oregon.[174]

As previously discussed, all of the CCC camps had extensive education opportunities for all enrollees. In November 28, 1935, the Pacific Breeze carried a rather detailed summary of the type of subjects taught at the camp and the number of enrollees that had signed up:

Subject	Enrolled
Typing	46
Shorthand	10
Bookkeeping	9
Photography	11
Mechanical Drawing	4
U.S. History	2
German	2
Current Events	2
English	3
Spelling	2
Arithmetic	2
Geometry	1

On February 19, 1937, the Acting Forest Supervisor of the Siskiyou National Forest proposed that the camp at Port Orford be shuttered, as it was not up to CCC standards. His report went on to say:

"This camp was built at the early stage of CCC work, and is not up to standard for the present construction of CCC camps. If the Siskiyou Forest has only two CCC Camps during the next two to three years, it is very doubtful if we should continue paying rent and hiring a custodian for this camp, as the costs by that time, plus deterioration of the camp before re-occupancy will be so great that we should not figure on keeping it. We are therefore submitting Form F, recommending the disposal of this camp."

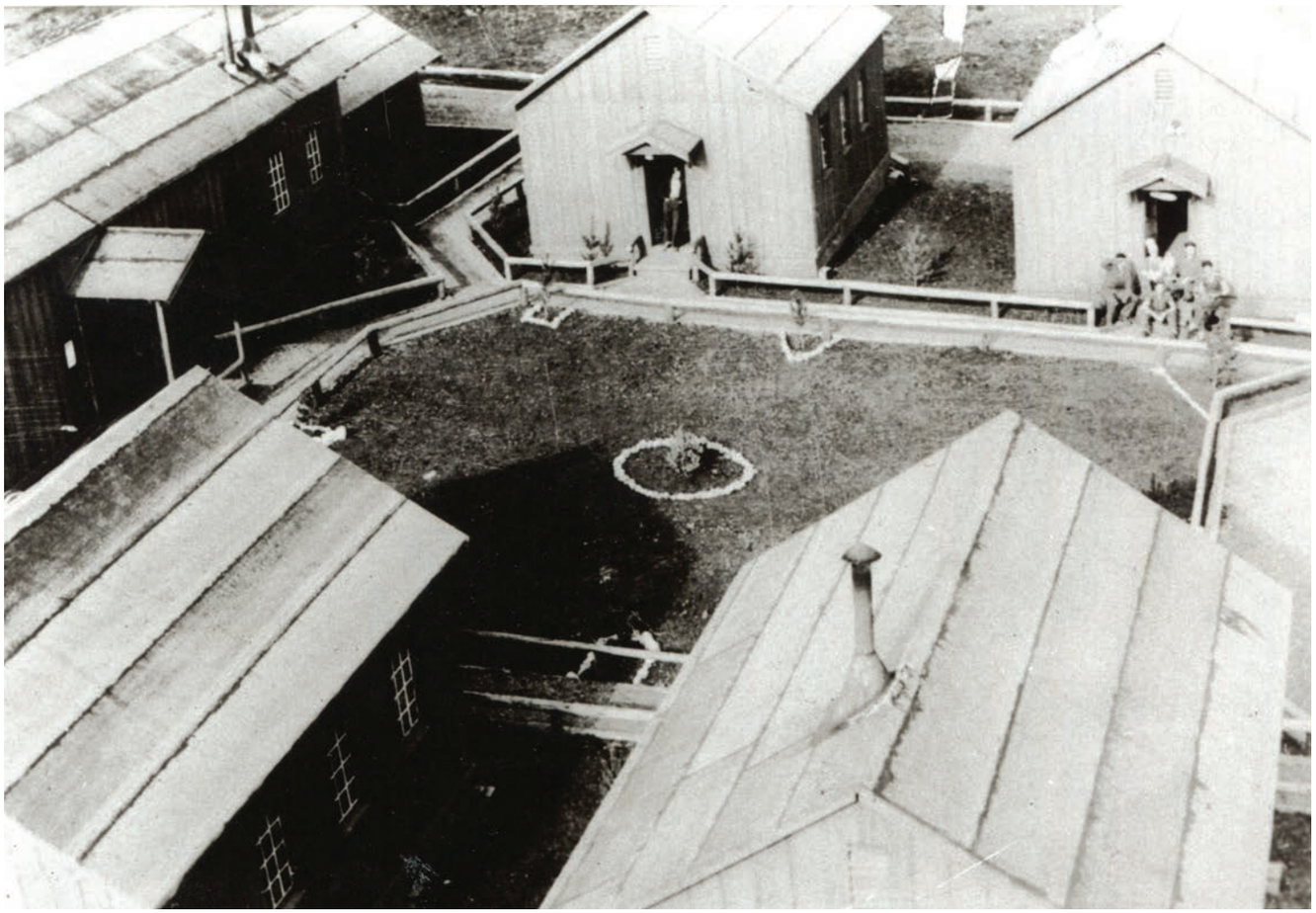
HUMBUG/BRUSH CREEK SIDE CAMP

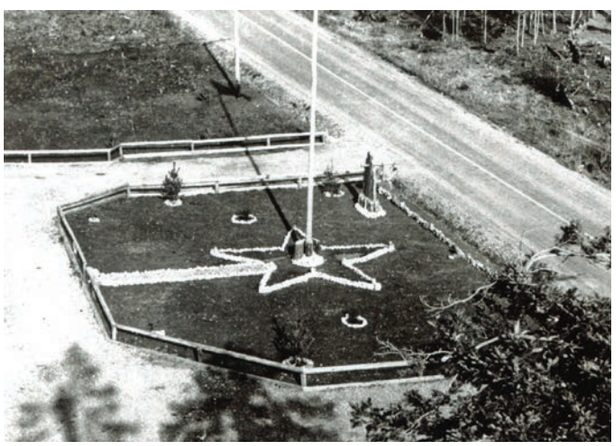
Location: Section 34 & 35, Township 33 South, Range 15 West, Willamette Meridian, Curry County, Oregon

A far as I could determine, the CCC camp at Humbug Mountain a.k.a. Brush Creek Camp was always a side camp that enrollees from other camps throughout the Medford District would use from time to time. While work was performed by the enrollees, there was no one single project that occurred. Probably the most noted today is the trail that goes to the peak of Humbug Mountain as that was built by the Corps. Once the District personnel determined that the camp was of no further use, the buildings were dismantled and used elsewhere.

Top: Coos Forest Protective Association headquarters, built by the CCC. Bottom left: Entrance sign to the Coos Forest Protective Association headquarters on Bunker Hill. Bottom right: Residence at the Coos Forest Protective Association headquarters. The headquarters building of the Coos Forest Protective Association was built by Company # 981 as a side camp from Camp Walker in 1936–37. In the first year, they built a warehouse, a 60-foot lookout tower, the main office building, and a residence. Photos courtesy of the Coos Forest Protective Association, Coos Bay, Oregon.

The entrance to Bandon Side Camp, a.k.a. Four Mile Camp. On May 1, 1937 the Oregon State Board of Forestry leased the property where Camp Bandon was to be located from Ester and Dewey Killer. The lease was renewed on March 19, 1940 at $25 per month. Photo courtesy of Edward Slagle.





Top: The entrance to the Bandon Side Camp just off the Oregon coast highway. Bottom left: An overhead shot of the "quad" at the Bandon Side Camp, a. k. a. the Four Mile Camp. Bottom right: Another shot of the "quad" at the Bandon Side Camp, a. k. a. the Four Mile Camp.

Photos courtesy of Coos Forest Protective Association.

CCC Side Camp at Humbug Mountain. Aerial photo 1939; courtesy of the University of Oregon.

HUMBUG SIDE CAMP COMPANY # 652

(October 1934)
Initial development of Humbug Mountain began in 1934 using Civilian Conservation Corps forces from Company 652.

PORT ORFORD SIDE CAMP # S.P.–6 COMPANY # 572 AT HUMBUG MOUNTAIN

(1935–1936)
In November 1935, the men from Camp Port Orford provided entertainment for a fundraising benefit for the local Red Cross at the Humbug Mountain camp. This continued the national drive to connect camp personnel with the communities where the camps were located. The camp orchestra,

POPULAR CLASSES

I've noticed, while combing through information about the educational programs at the camps, that typing consistently rose to the top as one of the most sought-after skills. When one considers the social and educational background of the enrollees, it seems a bit of an oddity that typing would be so popular. But then consider that the boys wanted to stay in touch with their loved ones back East, and typing a letter was much nicer than a hand-scribbled note. The demand for use of the typing equipment at the Port Orford Camp was so great and the availability of the typewriters so limited that the men had to abide by a rigid schedule in order for them all to have some access.

In addition to the typing class, the enrollees were instructed in the use of proper English and sentence structure. Photos courtesy of NARA.

called the "Goofy Seven," performed and a large audience of around 400 people attended the event.[175]

The November issue of the camp newspaper, *Pacific Breeze*, described in some detail the work done by the boys from Camp Port Orford at the side camp at Humbug Mountain that previous summer:

> *Humbug Mountain State Park, located in the northern part of Curry County, often called the wildest county in the United States, is distinctive in its setting. This mountain is almost completely circled by Brush Creek and for the most part by U.S. Highway 101 is said to be the highest mountain along the Pacific Coast that extends into the ocean. Probably no other scene in the State (of Oregon) has received as much publicity as the one taken from the north end of the Park showing Humbug Mountain and the coast line. Black tailed deer are abundant in this area and are often seen by tourists passing along the highway. The streams in this section lure the salmon in from the ocean to spawn. Fir and hemlock are the predominating species of the forest thought on the lower slopes myrtle seems to predominate. This combination has gifted this country with the greenest aspect during the winter months and nothing is more beautiful during the spring than the bloom of the rhododendron, azaleas and greasewood."*[175]

When the "farewell issue" of the newspaper from the CCC Camp at Four Mile was published in March of 1935, some 92 of the enrollees were headed to Marshfield to catch the train back to Fort Knox, Kentucky. (They were replaced in April by 54 new enrollees from Ohio). The editor of the paper wanted to give the boys some history of what had been accomplished at from October 1935 to March 1936 as follows:[176]

Humbug Mountain Grove
Battle Rock State Park

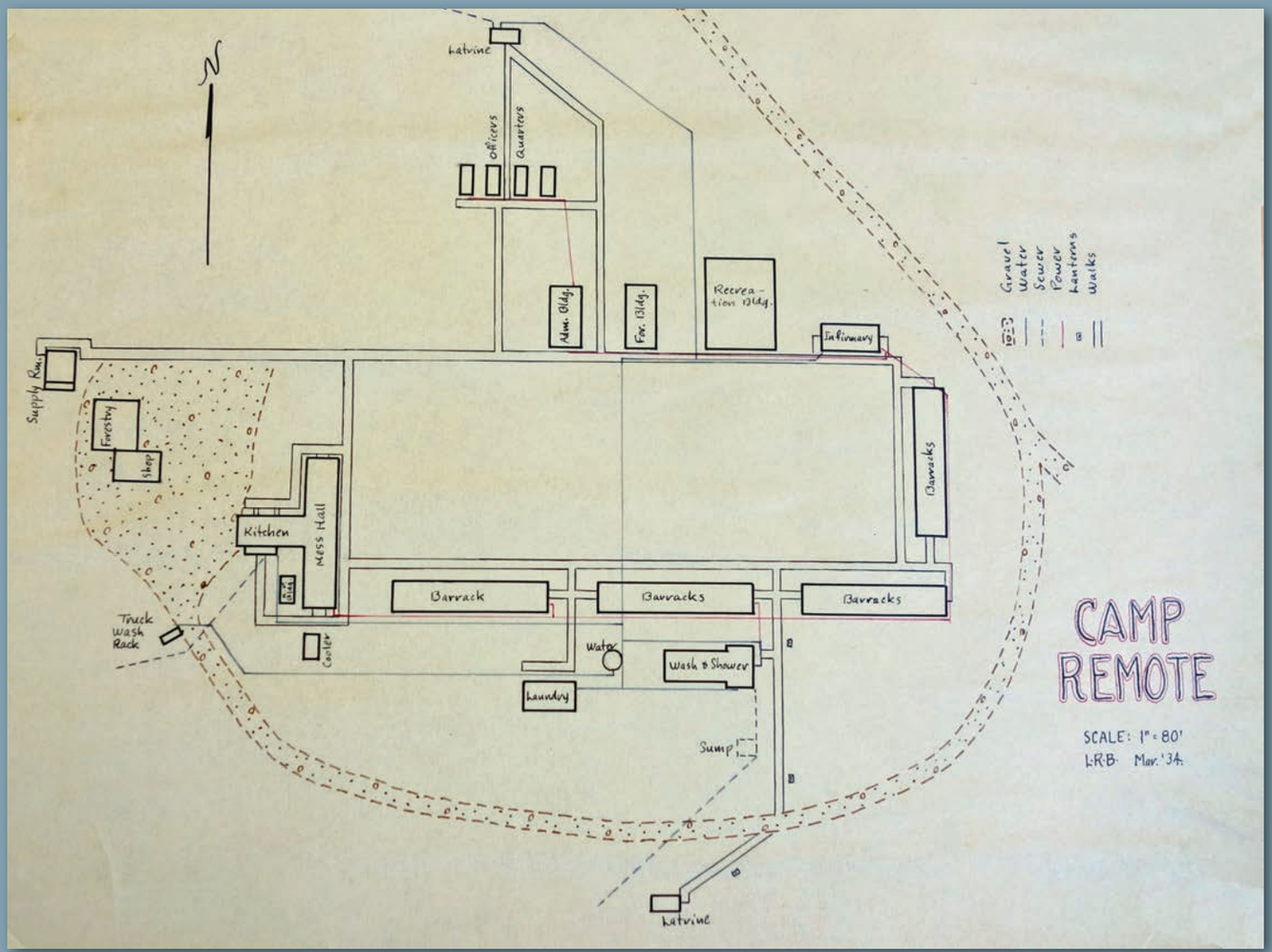
PROJECT	PROJECT COMPLETED
Foot Trails	2 miles
Latrine	2
Trail Side Cleanup	2 miles
Parking Area	2,000 yards^2
Foot Bridge	1
Guard Rails	15 rods
Parking Area	2,000 yards^2
Sign	1
Guard Rails	10 rods
Sewer Line	140 feet
Park Road	0.2 miles
Cesspool	1
Drinking Fountain	2
Drinking Fountain	1
Picnic Tables	10
Water Line	180 feet
Fireplaces	5
Garbage Cont.	5
Park Development	5 acres
Signs & Markers	3
Fire Break	1 mile

Camp Sebastian State Park
Port Orford Cedar Tract

Woven Wire Fence	4 ½ miles
Fire Hazard Reduction	34 acres
Cattle Guard	1
Roadside Clean Up	1 mile
Fire Breaks	0.3 miles
Lineal Survey	2 miles

> *"The technical staff at Camp Humbug extends its appreciation for the conscientious and industrious manner in which you men have performed your duties. We sincerely commend you for your cooperation, excellent morale, good conduct and manliness."*[176]

Two months later, the word came down that Company # 572 would be moved from Port Orford/Humbug Mountain to the Mt. Rainier Forest near Clear Creek, 52 miles northeast of Yakima, Washington, thus ending their tour on the Oregon coast and the closure of Camp Humbug.



The general layout of Camp Remote, ca. 1934. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

Top: As with the other CCC camps, Camp Remote started out as a tent camp for the men of Company # 757, ca. 1933.
Middle: The recreation building at Camp Remote is the large structure in the center of the photograph. To the left is the forestry building and to the right is the infirmary, ca. 1934.
Bottom left: The building with gable end and closed door is the kitchen. The other building is the mess hall, which forms a "T" with the kitchen. This design was similar to many of the other camps, ca. 1934.
Bottom right: The water supply for Camp Remote was created by building a wooden dam across a small stream; water was piped downhill to the camp. Note the split-rail fence surrounding the reservoir. A filter screen to separate the leaves and twigs that fell into the water can be seen in the lower right of the photograph above the wooden boards that make up the dam. Dirt fill above the boards gave the dam a watertight condition, ca. 1933.

Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

Top: The CCC Camp Remote, in Camas Valley, Oregon, ca. 1933. The mess hall is at the far left, the administration offices are in the center foreground, and the enrollees' tents are in the rear. A water tank can be seen behind the flag pole; it was fed by a spring. Photo courtesy of the Douglas County Museum # N 4136. Bottom: Camp Remote company # 757. Photo courtesy Oregon State University Archives #1394730347.

REMOTE CAMP (1933–1934)

REMOTE CAMP # GF; 6
COMPANY # 757
(June 1933–April 1934)

Location: unknown–references place it at the westerly end of Camas Valley

From the sketchy information I could find on this CCC camp, I have determined that the camp was located on the western edge of the Camas Valley and about 17 miles east of the Bradford CCC Camp on Upper Rock Creek. According to a letter from the project Commander at Camp Bradford—who did not want the Bradford Camp moved the old Remote Camp for winter quarters beginning in 1935, his argument was based upon the fact that the Remote Camp was located on a dirt road requiring resurfacing from a quarry 20 miles away. He went on to say that Bradford had an adequate water supply for summer operations while Remote did not. He continued to make his case for not moving by claiming that Remote got an average of two feet of snow in the winter while Bradford had a milder winter climate.[177]

LETTERS HOME

Norman Meyers had religiously written home while in the Corps. Meyers was an enrollee in Company # 754 from Fremont, Nebraska whose company number was later changed to Company # 757 when he was moved to Camp Remote in Camas Valley, Douglas County, Oregon. Fortunately, his parents saved all of his letters and stored them in the attic. They were found by Mr. Meyers after his parents passed away and they shed light on what it was like to be an enrollee in the 3-C's.[50]

He arrived at the army conditioning camp at Fort Crook, Nebraska on May 17, 1933 where he took "basic CCC training." He left for Oregon on June 12, 1933 by train. His sequence of letters home give a sense of what life was like as an enrollee in Oregon. His first job was working as a "powder monkey" dynamiting stumps and rock for road building.

His first letters were written during the train trip from Sacramento, California to Roseburg, Oregon contain several descriptions of the timbered mountains he saw. Having spent his childhood in Nebraska, the rugged landscape of the west created quite a sight. The most impressive seemed to be Mt. Shasta as the train passed by. His letters mentioned the mountain on several occasions. Meyers arrived in Roseburg on June 16, 1933 and he, along with other enrollees, were taken by truck directly to the CCC Camp Drew (CCC Camp # F–36). The camp was located east of Canyonville, Oregon along the Elk Creek just south of the little town of Tiller. I have included excerpts from other letters he wrote back home to his folks in order to give a firsthand an account of the experience of a recruit moving from camp to camp.

JOKE

The January '36 edition of the *Sea Breeze* carried the following joke:

An Englishman was visiting some friends in Port Orford and was making a constant search for a good American joke to tell in England. At a hotel in Portland he asked the clerk to tell him a story.

"Well", said the clerk, "My mother and father had a child. It was neither my sister nor my brother. Who was it?"

The Englishman couldn't guess.

"Why, it was me." said the clerk.

The Englishman enjoyed the joke immensely. When he arrived in England he immediately proceeded to tell the joke to a group of friends.

"My mother and father had a child," said the Englishman, "It was neither my sister nor my brother. Who was it?"

Nobody could guess, and the Englishman slapped his leg and doubled over with laughter.

"Why," he said, "It was a hotel clerk in Portland, Oregon."

Dear Folks,

Fort Crook, Nebraska
Wednesday, May 17, 1933

I sure feel like hell now. I got a physical exam this morning and passed. Got two vaccinations and it is a tough one for typhoid. I got my clothes this morning. They gave us 6 pr. of socks, 1 pair shoes, 3 of underwear, 1 dress suit, 3 work suits, necktie and cap. They also furnish 1 Gillette razor and blades, shaving cream, toothpaste, tooth brush, soap and all essentials.

We have not had to work yet, but will have to soon. The first (CCC) outfit is still working here but will leave soon. They are sure pouring in now. There will be 1,800 in soon. They don't know where they are going either.

Norman

–

June 12, 1933
Railroad Post Office
Lincoln, Nebraska

We left the Fort at 4 o'clock….spent a bad night. I have 6 of tent mates drunk and raising the devil. …All but 3 companies left the fort today. Do not know where we will locate. 33 (CCC men) in one (Pullman railroad) car…

–

June 19, 1933
Tiller, Oregon

…I had my first taste of the real work today. It is not going to be hard when I get used to it. We start to get our tools at 8 in the morning and check them in at 11:45 am. We get our tools at 1 pm and have our tools in by 4. This seems to be short hours. The men are under the forest ranger bosses while out of camp…

…There are a lot of snakes here. The kids killed a rattler with 8 rattles yesterday. Then there are blue racers, adders, garter snakes, scorpions, lizards and mosquitos as large as airplanes…

–

June 26, 1933
Tiller, Oregon

…Today they started building a number of tent floors and sidings. We will have good tents within a week. They are going to build a fine mess hall and cook shack. Then every tent is to have running water and one big bathroom with hot and cold water…

–

July 7, 1933
Tiller, Oregon

…Almost everyone in camp went into Tiller. They charge too much for the stuff though. They charged .50cents to see boxing, $.50 for the dance, $.50 for the rodeo, and $.10 for pop and ice cream. I figured I would spend my money ($5 for the first month's work) for fishing tackle and license…

–

August 17, 1933
Tiller, Oregon

…Well it was 3 months ago today that I was sworn in (to the CCC's) and half of my time is up already. I had a pretty strange pang of homesickness yesterday when Pete Ulm's brother was in with his hounds and one of them happened to open up. Then they all tore loose and what music. They chased a bear clear up to Devil's Know…

–

September 6, 1933
Tiller, Oregon
…Just last night I signed up (with the CCC's) for 6 more months. I figure I am sure to have 6 more months of work and you can keep your eyes and ears open so if I can get a better job, I can come back…

–

October 12, 1933
Anchor, Oregon (in Camas Valley)

…I was moved to Cow Creek to help build the camp the day before yesterday. 15 were taken to Fort Riley, Kansas yesterday morning to start up a new camp. There is no Company 754 now and I am a member of Company 757 of Myrtle Point, Oregon. This is just a side camp, but I have never seen the main camp…

October 26, 1933
Anchor, Oregon

…Well, I moved over to Camp Remote last Monday. The camp over here is surely fine compared to Camp Drew. We eat out of plates here and have good silverware to eat with. The food is served here seems quite a bit better that at Drew. I believe that you can find Camas Valley on the map I sent you. It is 24 miles from Roseburg on the highway between Dillard and Coquille. The camp is within a mile of the paved highway…

…We moved into the barracks last Tuesday. They are sure fine compared with the tent with dirt floors. The floor has tar paper on it and the outside of the building is also covered with it. I have a lower berth and like it fine. The partner above me is Nicholas Laudenklas. He snores something awful but he doesn't get drunk much so I won't be vomited on. The bunks are rather hard, but sleep well. They have two stoves in each barracks. There can be 52 men sleep in each one.

The mess hall here seems very quaint. It is covered with shakes all over and the timbers are all of log. The tables have oil cloth over them which make it seem more like home. They are going to build us a new one and put some good flooring in so they can hold dances. The canteen is also here. They are going to make this their recreation room later on. They give us fresh milk every morning here, also butter with every meal. They serve cake every supper.

–

October 29, 1933
Camas Valley, Oregon

…One of the old crew left for home last week. I will stick it out if I can stand the soakings. It rains hard here not a drizzle. The natives stick their heads out of the barracks and say "I see the coast fog is blowing in". The work is slow when it rains. I don't see how they can build roads when it rains and the gumbo (mud) is awful here.

They issued us our winter clothes, yesterday. They were a pair of overalls, four pair medium socks, one lumber jacket, one O. D. shirt, one pair four buckle overshoes and a good work cap. We got a good comforter several days ago. It is sure is a lot warmer sleeping than the old Army blankets…

–

January 18, 1934
Camas Valley, Oregon

…The Army took a notion this week to go through everyone's clothing and check it. If one is short, they charge you with it and take the money from your check of course issuing you replacements. The old worn out clothing from Fort Crook which I have discarded, one is supposed to have. They won't look up here (Norman was in a side camp) so I am safe I believe. I suppose this is caused by some men pawning quit a lot of their clothing…

…I played in the ball game against Camp Bradford today. We lost 6-1 but they didn't play extra hard. I played second base and got to bat twice. I hit a triple over the right fielder's head the first time up and struck out the next. The weather was ideal for baseball…

Throughout the winter months, Meyers' letters home showed that he anguished about whether he would "re-up" in the Corps for a third tour of duty. He finally decided to quit the CCC and caught the train back to Nebraska on March 29, 1934. As he reflected on the letters he had sent home, he wrote: "*While my 10 ½ months of service in the Civilian Conservation Corps was ended on April 2, 1934, this experience affected the remainder of my life. In retrospect, it now appears to have been a long, learning period for those citizens in the Corps during a critical period in our Nation's history. For the opportunity the government gave me in 1933 and 1934, I am deeply appreciative.*"[178]

SITKUM CAMP

Location: Section 11, Township 28 South, Range 10 West, Willamette Meridian, Coos County, Oregon

SITKUM CAMP # GF–5; COMPANY # 1309

(April 1933–September 1933)

Unfortunately, no references were found for the CCC camp at Sitkum, Oregon during the summer of 1933.

SITKUM CAMP # GF–5; COMPANY # 1309

(October, 1933–March 1934)

SITKUM CAMP # GF–5 COMPANY # 1211 OR # 4244

(April 1935–September 1935)

As the men's six-month tours came to an end, they rotated in and out of Camp Sitkum in the same manner as with the other CCC camps scattered throughout the West and across the nation. On April 24, 1935, the local Coos Bay times newspaper reported the 89 CCC boys recruited from Fort Crook, Nebraska came off the train at Marshfield and left immediately by transport truck for Sitkum.[182] Some of the young men were promoted to various leadership positions prior to arriving at Camp Sitkum. Such was the case for John W. Goodwin—the father of my friend, Chuck Goodwin, whose question about me knowing about the 3-C's in Coos County started me down this road.[183]

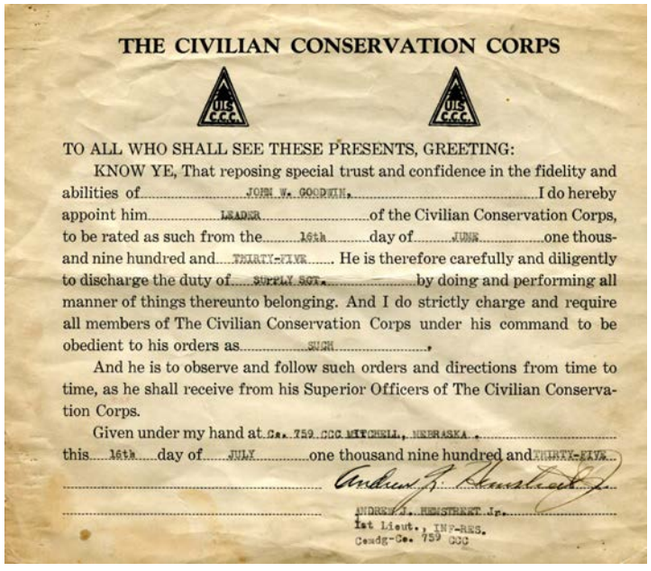
Carl J. Camelo, Sr. was an enrollee at Camp Sitkum from, August 1935 to January 1936. He was with company # 1211 from Johnsonville, New York and had the following to say about his time in at Sitkum:

"...For recreation we went for the most part to Myrtle Point or Coquille. Two or three times, we managed to persuade the Captain to let us take the longer trip to Roseburg. Roseburg seemed to have more of what we were looking for.

Our work in the 3-C's consisted mostly of road building and repairing, cutting down snags and dead trees, pest control e.g. gypsy moth and white pine blister rust, planting trees and of course out big job in Oregon was fighting fires.

My particular job in Camp Sitkum was in the rock quarry, where we made little ones from big ones. I also worked in the forest cutting down snags and dead tree[s]. Not to forget the forest fires. I still remember getting up in the middle of the night to ride for 50 or a hundred miles in the chilly early morning air, breathe the acrid smell of smoke, cutting six-foot wide fire breaks, drinking gray-looking water because the ranger could not find any better, all the while thinking that at any moment, a strong wind would come along and the fire would jump out fire break and all your work done for naught. Also getting lost in the woods, and walking in large circles trying to find the trail back to camp. We fought fires along the McKenzie River and some closer to Sitkum..."

The above photo is a current view of Brewster Valley within which Camp Sitkum was located at the eastern boundary of the valley. Three thousand years ago, a large landslide blocked the East Fork of the Coquille River, forming a lake that eventually filled with sediment. This gave the Sitkum area about 850 acres of rich sandy loam soil perfectly suited for raising cattle. The word "Sitkum" comes from the Chinook Indian word meaning "halfway"—in this case, half way between tidewater and the Umpqua Valley.



THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

KNOW YE, That reposing special trust and confidence in the fidelity and abilities of JOHN W. GOODWIN, I do hereby appoint him LEADER of the Civilian Conservation Corps, to be rated as such from the 16th day of JUNE one thousand nine hundred and THIRTY-FIVE. He is therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of SUPPLY SGT. by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging. And I do strictly charge and require all members of The Civilian Conservation Corps under his command to be obedient to his orders as SUCH.

And he is to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time, as he shall receive from his Superior Officers of The Civilian Conservation Corps.

Given under my hand at Co. 759 CCC MITCHELL, NEBRASKA this 16th day of JULY one thousand nine hundred and THIRTY-FIVE.

ANDREW J. HOUSTRAND Jr.
1st Lieut., INF-RES.
Comdg-Co. 759 CCC

Document appointing John W. Goodwin as a leader of a group of CCC boys coming from Nebraska.

Photo courtesy of the Oregon History Museum.

Camp Sitkum mess hall crew Thanksgiving Day dinner, 1933.

The meal included:

Soup
Sliced Pickles and Sliced Onions
Roast Young Tom Turkey and Dressing
Candied Sweet Potatoes
Cranberry Sauce
Creamed Peas and String Beans
Hot Rolls
Butter and Jam
Coffee and Cocoa
Pumpkin Pie
Ice Cream
Candy
Cigars

Photo courtesy of Oregon State University Archives.

SITKUM CAMP # GF - 5 COMPANY # 1622

(January 14, 1936–March 1936)
On January 14, 1936, some 200 enrollees from Company # 1622 who had been stationed for the previous three months at the CCC Camp at Coos Head were transferred to Sitkum. This group replaced the boys from New York, who boarded the train at Marshfield for the long ride back home to New York.[184]

SITKUM CAMP # GF - 5 COMPANY # 3874

(April 1936–September 1936)
The May 1936 edition of the Camp Newspaper—*The Chatterbox*—gave a fairly good accounting of the equipment on hand at the camp, and the Commander's requirement of the enrollees in using the equipment:

"...Feeling that the new men should be given a comprehensive idea of the Projects as a whole, the Chatterbox sent a reporter to interview the No. 1 man 'across the bridge'. (Assuming this to mean the Company Commander.)

Mr. Howard J. Derby is already well known to the men. He has time and time again demonstrated his desire to be of help to the men of the Company by generously offering to cooperate in the matter of recreation. But not many of the men realize his deep interest in the development of the men as workers and his desire to help each man 'find himself.'

'...This camp is very well equipped to give each man a varied specialized training said Mr. Derby. ' All I want or expect of each man to whom I turn over a piece of mechanical equipment is that he prove trustworthiness and ability to accept responsibilities. We have 2 # 50 Caterpillars, one # 55 Cletrac bulldozer, two rippers, one grader, three air compressors, one rock crusher loaned by Coos County and thirteen trucks. In addition there are the chippers and Jack hammers all of which require trustworthy eager-to-learn individuals. I want every man to get a chance at some one thing he wants to do. I can tolerate a mistake, but not carelessness, for this costs money..."[185]

The interview with the Company Commander continued as he described the main projects undertaken by the new men of the camp:

"...The three major projects include the improvement of the Coos Bay Wagon Road, the Reston–Cold Springs Truck Trail and the Brewster Rock Truck Trail. The Reston-Cold Springs Truck Trail is a very important project for the protection of some of the finest timber in Coos County. The side camp of 100 men will carry out the majority of this construction. The Forest Service telephone line will be installed in the very near future and with this communication (nearly 30 miles of line) and the easy negotiation of the roads in question, the valuable timber tracts of Coos and Douglas Counties will have an insurance that has never before been accomplished..."[185]

Throughout the literature addressing the construction of roads, it was a common vernacular to use the term "Truck Road." Many of the roads constructed by the Corps were not designed for regular vehicle traffic, but to provide access to the back country for specialized four-wheel drive vehicles. I noticed on several occasions where a photograph of a nice graveled roadway was called a "truck road" but was quite well graded and probably passable during the summer months for passenger cars. I think that the Corps newspapers simply used that term to refer to all roads worked on by the enrollees.

Apparently, Sitkum had a "pay for use" laundry service. The enrollee in charge of the laundry placed a notice in the camp paper, extolling the virtues of his business of running the laundry for a profit, but requesting that enrollees bring their soiled clothes to him as early as possible. The capacity of the washing machines was limited and the demand was ever increasing such that some of the garments could not be delivered back to the owner in an efficient and timely manner (signed "THE SMELL SWEET LAUNDRY").

RESTON SIDE CAMP

Location: (probably) Section 14, Township 28 South, Range 8 West, Willamette Meridian, Douglas County, Oregon

The *Sitkum Flash* newspaper reported that the changes at the Reston Side camp made the facility a neater and better-arranged camp capable of handling a larger number of enrollees more comfortably; plus increasing the capacity of the camp would provide for considerable savings in the

amount of fuel consumed, as less men had to be transported from the main camp at Sitkum. The paper also reported that the new library at Reston received exchange books from the main camp each week. This helped maintain a higher level of educational programs at Reston when the enrollees lived there.[186]

Sitkum had a well-supplied library, and each copy of the camp newspaper stressed the importance of taking advantage of the educational programs offered by the Corps. For instance, the Thanksgiving edition (1937) of the *Sitkum Flash* commented that the library contained over four hundred books ready to be used along with forty oddly assorted magazines that received each month. The editor encouraged the enrollees to take advantage of the opportunities to improve themselves by taking classes and utilizing the contents of the large library:

"...How many boys are there in camp that would like to complete their elementary school work? It is quite possible that an arrangement by which it would be made possible for boys having nearly completed elementary school that course work could be worked out that would not conflict with project work. Studies would be carried out in Camp and the boys when they are ready would take the regular Oregon State examinations..."

Toward the end of the summer season of 1936, the men at the Reston side camp prepared to return to Camp Sitkum after "winterizing" Reston's buildings. New supports for the roofs were installed in case of heavy snow and the mess hall was covered with a new layer of tarpaper. New rock and mudslides that came into the portion of the roadway they had recently built were cleared away before heading back to Sitkum for the winter.

SITKUM CAMP # GF–5 COMPANY # 1534

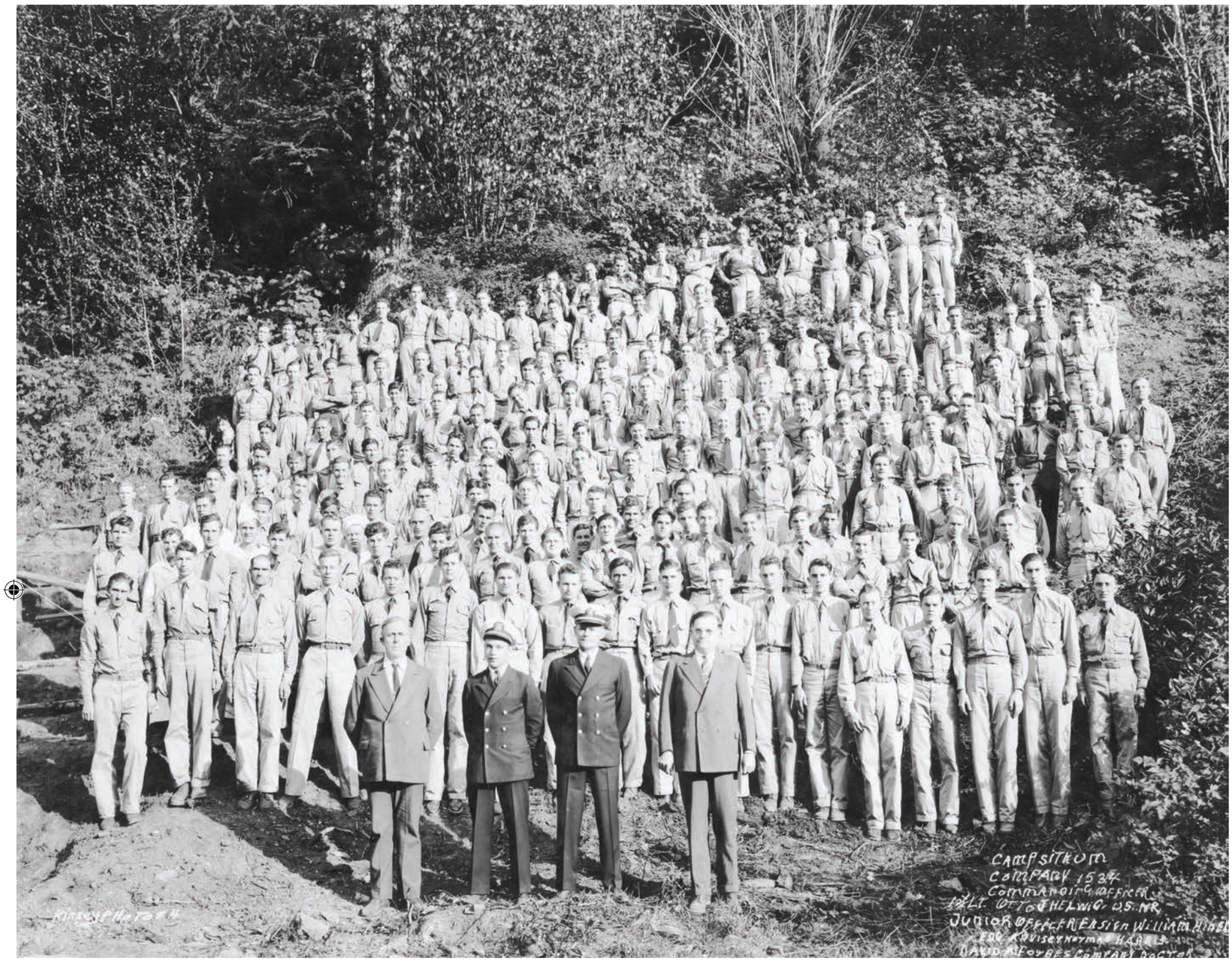
(December 17, 1937–July 8, 1940)
Company #1534 was organized at Fort Knox Kentucky on June 22, 1933 and spent the next four years working on the "worn out farms" in the region. They even got involved in a three-month harvest of pecans in the in the "Gumbo" mud bottoms around Benton, Kentucky before shipping off to Illinois. In December of '37, the Company boarded a train for the five-day trip across the country to Myrtle Point, Oregon. The Company consisted of 22 young men from Ohio, and 142 men from Kentucky. The average age was 18½ years, with the average level of education of the entire contingent at the ninth grade level. These were seasoned veterans of the CCC with the average prior enlistment of 18 months.[181]

CAMP LIFE

One of the Sitkum Camp enrollees at the time, Mr. Pete Roma, documented his stay at Sitkum in a letter written to Mr. Richard Hansen, a local historian in Coos County, in 1991. His remembrance of his stay at Sitkum is captured as follows:

"...I didn't lie about my age. This is how it happened. I was sitting in the recruiting office for the CCC's with my brother and some his friends that were signing up. The office clerk looked at me and asked me why I wasn't signing up. Before

Opposite page:
Top: On October 19, 1933, the local newspaper—the Coos Bay times—announced that 300 CCC men had passed through Marshfield on their way to Coquille. They had travelled in twelve special passenger coaches along with three baggage cars. A special troop train is seen here stopping at Eugene, Oregon on its way to Marshfield then on to Coquille. Once the train arrived in Coquille, 170 of the men were met by army trucks for the final leg of their long journey to Camp Sitkum.[179] The other 130 men were transported to the CCC camp at Upper Rock Creek—Camp Bradford.[180] Photo courtesy of NARA.
Middle left: The entrance to Camp Sitkum, October 1933. Photo courtesy of Oregon State University Archives.
Middle right: Camp Sitkum under construction in October 1933. Photo courtesy of Oregon State University Archives.
Bottom left: This photo looks north across the camp in 1934. The camp entrance sign and the access bridge can be seen above the barracks and to the left of the officers' quarters. The infirmary is the little building in the center of the photograph with some rubble at the back. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.
Bottom right: CCC Camp Sitkum as seen in its completed state, Company # 1534, ca. 1937. Photo courtesy of the University of Washington special Archives, C. Kinsey 5589; PH Collection 516, photographer Clark Kinsey.



Enrollees dressed in in their official uniforms at the CCC Camp Sitkum, Company # 1534, ca. 1937. From this photo, one gets a sense of just how large a full camp of 200 men looks. Imagine the issues faced by the camp commander or the project superintendent in managing such a large group of young men—some of whom had never been away from their home in the city. Photo courtesy of the University of Washington special Archives C. Kinsey 5588; PH Collection 516, photographer Clark Kinsey.

I could say anything, she said you were born in a certain year, weren't you? I said yes and that was how I at 16 years of got into the CCC (later as the number of enrollee began to drop off, the CCC lowered the entrance age to 17 and these were called "junior enrollees.")

I was at Camp Sitkum in Oregon. My address there was Company 1543 Sitkum, Oregon. I went into the CCC at Steubenville, Ohio with other boys from our area. We left Steubenville and went to Fort Knox, Kentucky for assignment to our CCC camps. We were given clothes and shoes and left there by troop train. We ate with mess kits. Our field kitchen was in the baggage car. It took six days to get to Myrtle Point, Oregon where we were met and transported by work trucks 28 miles up in the mountains where our camp was located. The camp was in between two mountains on a big piece of flat land. In the morning you would look up and all you could see were trees and fog.

We rose each morning at 5:30 am. We had roll call and then made our bunks, mopped up the barracks, straightened up our shoes and foot locker–that is if you had one. They cost $5.00 each. I saved for two months in order to get one. As you know, they sent $25.00 home to your parents and you got to keep $5.00 per month. Out of this you had to buy your toilet articles, cigarettes, etc. Wing Cigarettes cost 5 cents a pack. This we bought just for the weekends. During the week, we smoked Bull Durham. Any money that was left out of our $5.00 was spent on the weekend. We rode the trucks into Myrtle Point on Saturday and returned that same night. If you wanted to stay over, there was a truck that returned to camp on Sunday. Of course we all went to church on Sunday—there was a church for each denomination.

I spent six months at Camp Sitkum where I worked in the blacksmith shop. We also had a rock quarry from which we supplied those who needed crushed rocks. This was where I learned how to use the jack hammer. We wore canvas pants that we called tin pants, [and] caulked sole boots. We dressed for heavy rain in the winter and in the spring we worked in the forest planting trees and cutting fire trails. It seemed like there was a spike camp and a look-out tower on every mountain. I worked five days a week, unless you were the cook or mess attendant which had their own schedules. I held many positions and learned a lot. I was large for my age.

Camp Sitkum was a permanent camp, with trails, roads, cook house and mess hall. We had frame buildings set up just like the Army. There were sleeping barracks, an orderly room, a dispensary for the officers, a recreation

The above photograph is of the lookout tower atop Brewster Rock. It was built by the enrollees at Camp Sitkum in March 1935. Many of the fire towers did not have roads to them when the CCC began constructing them throughout the Medford District. Mules would often be the mode of freight transport to the construction site. Here "Little Babe" packs lumber to the site where the Brushy Bald lookout tower was built. Photos courtesy of the Coos Forest Protective Association.

JOKES AND A QUIZ FROM THE SITKUM FLASH

QUACKS FROM THE FLASH—May 1938

Husband: "I've made up my mind to stay home this evening."
Wife: "But I've made up my face to go out."

Bill: "Have you ever seen one of those inventions that tell when a man is lying?"
Jack: "See one? I married one."

Mrs. Newlywed: "Now, dear, what'll I get if I cook a dinner like this every day for a year?"
Mr. Newlywed: "Probably my life insurance."

"KWIZ KORNER" from the Sitkum Flash:
Mark TRUE or FALSE
ANSWERS BELOW

1. Fish sleep.
2. Checks dated on Sunday are not good.
3. Three different cities have been the capital of the United States.
4. A national population census is taken every 10 years.
5. A lieutenant Colonel ranks higher than a Colonel.
6. A sundog is a dog who likes to lie in the sun.
7. Canada has a greater area than the United States.
8. Liverpool is the second largest city in England.
9. Balboa was the first explorer to cross the Pacific Ocean.
10. The word "aint" cannot be found in the dictionary.
11. The geographical center of the United States is in Iowa.
12. The strength of an electric current is measured in folts (sic).
13. Fox fire comes from decaying wood.
14. M stands for both noon and midnight.
15. Yellowstone is the largest National Park in the United States.

1. False—they rest, but do not sleep 2. False 3. True—New York, Philadelphia, Washington D. C. 4. True 5. False 6. False—it is the halo around the sun 7. True Canada, 3,694,863 square miles; U.S. 3,026,789 square miles 8. False—Birmingham is the second largest 9. False—Magellan was the first 10. False 11. False 12. False—It is measured in Amperes 13. True 14. False—12 AM stands for noon; 12 PM stands for midnight 15. True

hall that was big enough to show movies and I remember it had a pool table, a canteen, a barber shop. We even had a door for the showers and toilets. I remember a big parade ground. It was very picturesque. There was a bridge to cross to get from the road to the camp and on the other side of the river was the depot office, supply building, generators that supplied electricity to the blacksmith shop, motor pool and officer's building.

I'll never forget the CCC's. It gave me a chance to grow up; it taught me how to be a good citizen and love my country. I was very happy to be allowed to be an American…"[187]

Another major project undertaken by the men of Company # 1534 in 1938 was the construction of the Douglas County Fire Patrol headquarters buildings at Roseburg, Oregon. This included the construction of a warehouse, crew house, office, garage, oil house, barn, and landscaping as well as installing a water system. The project was completed in April of that year.

As some of the men from Camp Sitkum were rotating out of the Corps in March of '38, the educational advisor made the following comment in the *Sitkum Flash*:

"… Our goal at the camp is that every man in Company # 1534 partakes in the Educational Programs. If you have done so, you should be better prepared for your life's work. You have had an opportunity while in camp to prepare yourself for this step you are taking. If you are not better fitted at this time to meet your employment problems, you have missed one of the main objectives of the CCC….

For those who are remaining in camp, although you are thousands of miles from parents and girlfriends and the weather is not as you would like to have it, you deserve a lot of credit for staying in the 3-C's…"[188]

Every member of Company # 1534 whose mother was still alive was given a Mother's Day card to send home. The great majority of the men enclosed a letter with their card, too.

CCC boys building a fire trail. Photo courtesy of the USFS.

FIRE FIGHTING

As mentioned in several prior chapters, the month of May is when the CCC camps out West generally started training their enrollees for the upcoming fire season. It was also a time when the camps were generally up to full strength. One of the reasons that the CCC carried such an excellent fire-suppression record was due to their training and preparedness to leave camp on a moment's notice. In the May 1938 camp newspaper, The U.S. Forest Service made the following statement: *"Remember, you are up against something new for you which is old stuff to us. Follow each order to the letter, even if it sounds queer-like, for instance, taking your overcoat to a fire in the hottest part of the summer. After you have had experience you will see the reason for orders that you do not understand."*

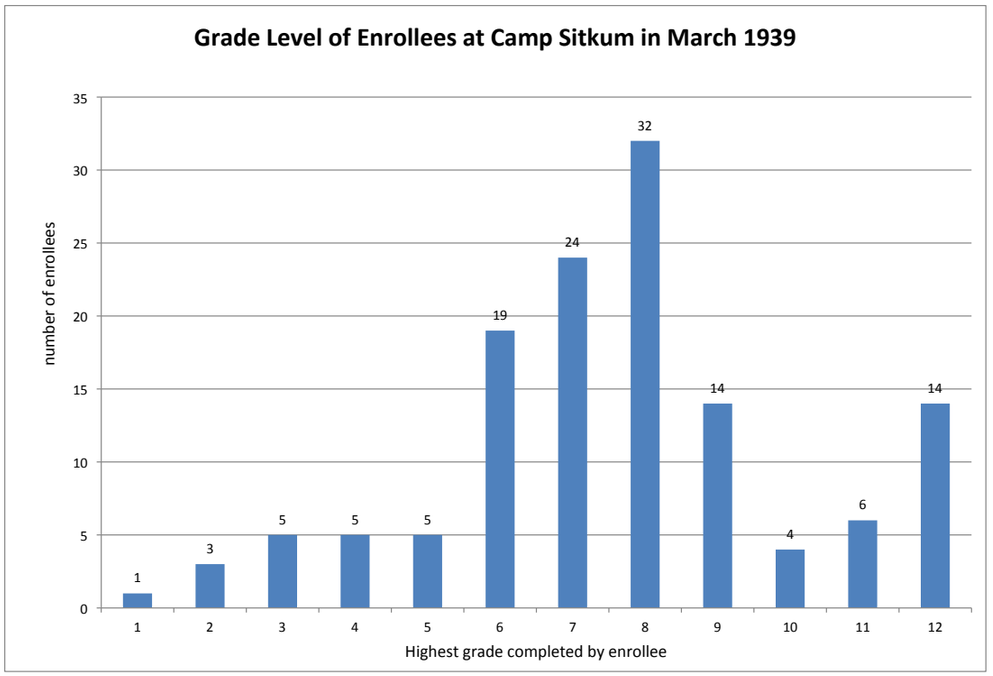
Each man on the fire crew had their own fire bag that had the company's name and camp number stenciled on the outside and contained the following mandatory items:[70]

4 blankets
1 mess kit
1 comb
1 towel
1 bar of soap
1 toothbrush
3 pr. clean socks
1 overcoat or jacket
Other items are optional

By July of '38, all but 14 out of a total enrollment of some 200 men at Camp Sitkum had been on several major forest fires. The men were sent to wild fires near Drain, Tyee Mountain, Hubbard Creek, and Wilson's Ranch, to name a few. One of the fire wardens commented in the *Sitkum Flash* that *"our men were the best bunch of CCC forest fighters he had ever seen. That they are equal to any firefighting crew he ever worked with."* The paper went on to say*: "... that the praise and respect of thousands of people throughout the country is yours; so no matter what duties you are called upon to perform, you know that your work is appreciated. When you hit the ground after 12 to 16 hours of duty on the fire line with only a blanket or two between you and the cold hard ground, you will know that you have done a creditable day's work..."*[189]

By September of 1938, the Reston Side camp had been on 14 fires, and the Sitkum main camp on 25. The local fire agencies turned time and again to the CCC camps to handle fire control work.

A year later—September 1939, the *Sitkum Flash* reported the worst fire season since the Bandon Fire complex of



1936. Nine different fires destroyed an estimated 40,000 acres of timberland on which the CCC boys at Sitkum clocked up over 2,064 man-days! The largest fire was the Eagle Creek blaze (also known as the Chetco River fire or the Gold Beach Fire) which consumed 30,000 acres alone. The Days Creek fire consumed another 3,500 acres and was mostly fought by the men of the Reston Spike Camp. Once under control, the Reston crew was immediately sent to the Tyee Fire. The Cold Creek Road project was essentially put on hold for an entire month as the spike camp crew's attention was directed toward stopping the wildfires.[190]

In a July 1933 editorial, the *Grants Pass Daily Courier* editor commented: *"...Skies of southern Oregon will be clear of smoke this summer, if the efforts of more than 2,000 young men now camped in the hills of the Siskiyou and Rogue River forests at stamping out woods conflagrations succeed as anticipated... Of course it should be remembered that every time these men have to fight fire, they are being taken from more constructive work. It is to be hoped that the forest using public will cooperate in preventing fires so that the E.C.W. men can build trails and make other forest improvements instead of having to fight unnecessary man-caused forest fires..."*[191]

After several years of hard use, the floors in the barracks and mess hall at Camp Sitkum were replaced in May of '39 while other buildings in camp were remodeled. It seemed that after a couple of years use and when a new group of enrollees arrived in a camp, the first order of business was to make major repairs on many of the camp buildings. In addition, Camp Sitkum received material to construct a new 20' by 100' barracks building; the lumber for which came from Silver Lake CCC Camp; a month later the camp received the material for yet another 20' by 100' structure that was dedicated to the education program.

"I am indeed sorry to lose you men who are going home or transferring to the Fifth Corps Area. I have been in the Technical Service since the beginning of the CCC and the men of this company are the best 3-C men I have ever seen. You have always done your work in an efficient manner; have always worked harder and done more than other men not only on the work projects, but also the forest fires. I do appreciate what you have done and wish you success in whatever you undertake."

One of the enrollees returning to Kentucky from Camp Sitkum had been in the CCC for two years—the absolute maximum allowed—and had the following to say about his tour of duty:

"I consider the three years that I have served in the CCC to be something valuable, interesting and full of fun. During these three years, I have served under 63 different officers and 11 Educational Advisers. I have been in nine camps and have been out West twice in the past two years. I have held

the following jobs in the order in which they are named—2nd Cook, Dynamite man, 1st cook, acting Mess Sargent, Company Clerk, Canteen steward, assistant Educational Adviser, Field Leader, SCS clerk, jack-hammer man, Army truck driver and Mess Sargent."[193]

That spring, Camp Sitkum got a few more enrollees than expected from the Fort Vancouver Barracks. These young men were scheduled for another camp, but due to the government tightening the financial strings, the camp to which they were assigned was closed—more men, more work got done! April 1939 was also a time when all the camps across the nation celebrated the 6th anniversary of the Corps. At Camp Sitkum, along with an open house celebration, the enrollees began their annual firefighting training classes, which all the camp enrollees attended, new and old, regardless of their prior experience.

The following gives an example of the stern and military attitude of a camp commander as he welcomed the new recruits to Camp Sitkum in April 1940:

"You new enrollees have come to a fine camp. It is not the newest camp in the District; it is not the nearest to town, but it a pretty good camp and it is getting better all the time. Right now, we are in the midst of more intensive construction than at any time during the past year. Many improvements have been made in the recreation Hall and the mess hall. New athletic equipment has been purchased. New power tools have been installed in the wood working shop.

The duty of the Army is to feed you, clothe you and house you, and see that you keep well. Someone has to do the cooking if you are to be fed. The cooks and KP's have to get up on time, whether they want to or not. Someone has to get in wood for the stoves in the barracks whether they want to or not. Other jobs also have to be done. You will have you job to do. Do it well if you want to get along well.

In camp and when in town on recreation trips, act as you would at home within sight and sound of your mother. Work hard, play hard and sleep hard. You will put on weight and muscle and go home a better man than you were when you came to camp."[195]

Camp newspapers always gave a page or two for the current sporting activity that occurred in the camp. In February, the *Sitkum Flash* gave a full spread to the winning basketball team from Sitkum—the Sitkum Cougars. The team travelled to Medford for the district basketball tournament against the camps at Coos Head, China Flats, and McKinley. They played each team twice, pocketing a total of 238 points in six games to 106 for their opponents. Those scores computed an average of 40 points for the Cougars and 18 points for the opponents. In the game against the team from China Flats, the Cougars set a league record by scoring 58 points to that of China Flats' 20. Of course, Sitkum was helped by their 6' 6" center (Charlie Larson) who averaged 14 points per game.[196]

In March 1940, the *Flash* sporting section continued with the accolades for the Cougars. The following is a part of the story:

"...two minutes after the starting whistle (against the feared team from Baird who averaged 6' 1" in height), it looked as though Sitkum would make it a runaway game when they jumped out in front 6–0; Baird starting hitting a lot and by the end of the first quarter the score was 12 for Sitkum and 10 for Baird. The next two quarters were nip and tuck with Sitkum leading at the end of the half 26 to 25; and 37 to 36 by the end of the 3rd quarter. The game ended with Sitkum on top.

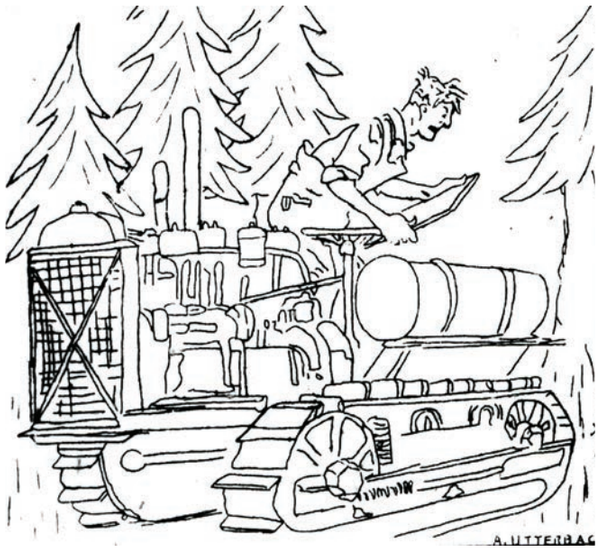
The very next morning, Sitkum played the Gasquet five with rapid fire baskets giving the impression that this game would be a run-away. But things changed before the end of the first quarter when Gasquet hit from all angles to reverse the game in what appeared to be a run-away for them. The score at the end of the first quarter was 21 for Gasquet and 11 for the Cougars. With the game tied with 10 seconds to go in the 4th quarter, a bouncing foul shot landed in the hands of the Camp's big center that slammed it home with a terrific shot to win the game and the Medford CCC District basketball championship and trophy. It also landed the Sitkum 5 on the front page of the Flash in the month of April..." [196]

SITKUM CAMP # GLO - 3
COMPANY # GLO - 3

(July 8, 1940–)

In August 1940 the name of the Sitkum newspaper was changed to *The Grit,* but that name only lasted a few months. Since earlier editions of the paper were never found, no explanation can be offered for the name change.

By November the war in Europe was coming closer to drawing the United States into the conflict. Unlike other camp newspapers *The Grit* started carrying ever-more information about the war. In November, 1940, the following message was carried in the camp paper:



This sketch from the August 10, 1934 edition of the Camp Tyee newspaper "The Chatterbox" shows a CCC man attempting to repair a Cat tractor "on the fly" with a manual. Tractor mechanics were few and far between in the backcountry and often the CCC boys had to figure out repairs in the field with whatever tools they had.

The cover page of the Sitkum Flash Newspaper in January 1942.[199]

THANKSGIVING

"Sunday this winter when we are eating roast turkey, millions of human beings in France, Belgium, Holland and Poland will be glad to have a turnip to munch. While we sleep surrounded by the silence of the forest, broken only by an owl's hoot or the feeble cry of some distressed bird a million Londoners shiver in some underground retreat as they listen to the crack and roar of an air raid. The glow behind yonder hill is the moon and not a thousand burning homes.

We walk and work in safety for them, death walks so close its cold breath fans their cheeks. Our women folk are safe ON THIS THANKSGIVING DAY."[197]

As the world waited anxiously to see if the United States would actively enter the war in Europe, the July 1941 issue of the *Sitkum Flash* (the name of the camp newspaper was renamed back its the original moniker) carried the following message to the enrollees:

"Sure, we've taken it on the chin; sure we've had our dust storms, droughts and depression; so, what? The gilt frame may have been broken, but the picture remains the unchanged. If you ever feel your knees getting a little shaky, try this simple experiment by saying these words.....slowly:

Before the world, I am an American
I envy no man
I fear no man
No man can take away from me anything I have

Mine is a nation of youth, made out of a new kind of steel, alloyed with the blood strains of many people.....not too stubborn to bend, but too strong never to be broken.

With far-flung frontiers, mine is a land so broad, so rich in its hidden treasures that are vast in its resources that if we had to we could build a fence around ourselves and live forever...alone.

Mine is a people of common stature, not cursed by class....vaccinated against all lame cults and imported crock–pot philosophies....noisy at a ball game, but dangerously silent in battle.

My people think! Over the roar of wheels, in thundering subways, in factory and field, in the depths of mines, amid the clank and tine of dinner buckets, behind the drawn blinds of their thirty million houses, wherever they are, even now they are thinking...thinking out the answers that others cannot find. And, when the time comes, they speak without stuttering.

I am a proud of American inventive genius; if there had never been but just these few Americans…Franklin, Fulton, Bell, Edison and the Wright Brothers…this would still be the greatest nation on earth.

But most of all, I give thanks for American Industry and for American business brains that have found a way to pay better wages…to work shorter hours…to pay more for their raw stuff…and still, with the help of mass production and mass distribution, give the people what they want at prices they can pay."

Of course, we all know what happened on December 7, 1941: Pearl Harbor. The December '41 *Flash* reported the following:

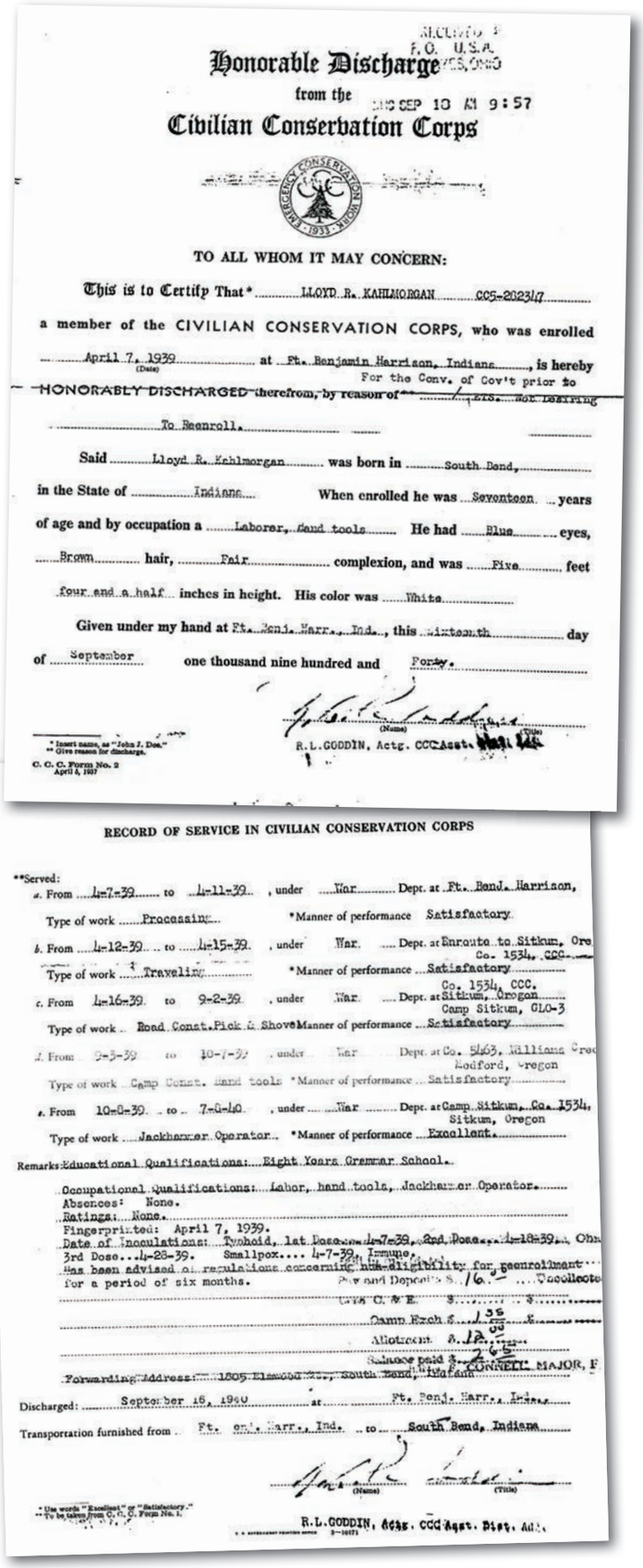
"The possibility of Pacific Coast bombing has put Camp Sitkum's work project in a position of considerable strategic military importance. Situated midway on the old Coos Bay Wagon Road connecting Marshfield and Roseburg, the camp is reconstructing that road so that it may be passable at all time. In case of invasion or bombing, this road is well camouflaged by trees unusually steep in irregular terrain. In the event of an emergency in the vicinity of Coos Bay and damage to Highway 42, the road kept up by the CCC would be the only nearby alternate road connecting the coast with inland cities.

Because of this unexpected situation, a request has been sent to higher authorities that replacements be sent to Camp Sitkum to speed the final reconstruction of those roads. And again the CCC proves of even more value to the nation than its original planners anticipated."[198]

Now not only were the boys of Camp Sitkum contributing to the quality and protection of the natural resources of Oregon, they were also contributing to the national defense effort of the country. In October, the boys of Sitkum purchased $527.60 of the National Defense Bonds. That was a lot of money back in 1941, especially when their personal salaries were only $5.00 per month!

By February of '42, the camp was down to 19 enrollees due to military enrollments, but by the middle of the month 146 new enrollees from the southern part of the United States arrived at Marshfield, destined for Sitkum, and another large contingent filled the camp at China Flats.

However, by July of '42, funding for the CCC was terminated by Congress and any remaining camps were either converted to military installations or Civilian Public Service facilities to house the conscientious objectors to the war.



Honorable Discharge
from the
Civilian Conservation Corps

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to Certify That * LLOYD R. KAHLMORGAN CCS-202317
a member of the CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS, who was enrolled
April 7, 1939 (Date) at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, is hereby
HONORABLY DISCHARGED therefrom, by reason of ** For the Conv. of Cov't prior to
To Reenroll.
Said Lloyd R. Kahlmorgan was born in South Bend,
in the State of Indiana When enrolled he was Seventeen years
of age and by occupation a Laborer, hand tools He had Blue eyes,
Brown hair, Fair complexion, and was Five feet
four and a half inches in height. His color was White
Given under my hand at Ft. Benj. Harr., Ind., this Sixteenth day
of September one thousand nine hundred and Forty.

R.L.GODDIN, Actg. CCC Asst.

* Insert name, as "John J. Doe."
** Gives reason for discharge.
C. C. C. Form No. 2
April 5, 1937

RECORD OF SERVICE IN CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

**Served:
a. From 4-7-39 to 4-11-39, under War Dept. at Ft. Benj. Harrison,
Type of work Processing *Manner of performance Satisfactory
b. From 4-12-39 to 4-15-39, under War Dept. at Enroute to Sitkum, Ore Co. 1534, CCC
Type of work Traveling *Manner of performance Satisfactory
c. From 4-16-39 to 9-2-39, under War Dept. at Co. 1534, CCC, Sitkum, Oregon Camp Sitkum, GLO-3
Type of work Road Const. Pick & Shovel *Manner of performance Satisfactory
d. From 9-3-39 to 10-7-39, under War Dept. at Co. 5463, Williams Creek Medford, Oregon
Type of work Camp Const. Hand tools *Manner of performance Satisfactory
e. From 10-8-39 to 7-8-40, under War Dept. at Camp Sitkum, Co. 1534, Sitkum, Oregon
Type of work Jackhammer Operator *Manner of performance Excellent.
Remarks: Educational Qualifications: Eight Years Grammar School.
Occupational Qualifications: Labor, hand tools, Jackhammer Operator.
Absences: None.
Ratings: None.
Fingerprinted: April 7, 1939.
Date of Inoculations: Typhoid, 1st Dose 4-7-39, 2nd Dose 4-18-39, 3rd Dose 4-28-39. Smallpox 4-7-39, Immune.
Has been advised of regulations concerning non-eligibility for reenrollment for a period of six months.
Pay and Deposits $ 16.00 Uncollected
U.S.A. C. & E. $
Camp Exch. $ 1.35
Allotment $ 12.00
Balance paid $ 2.65
Forwarding Address: 1805 Elmwood Ave., South Bend, Indiana
CONNELL, MAJOR, F
Discharged: September 16, 1940 at Ft. Benj. Harr., Ind.
Transportation furnished from Ft. Benj. Harr., Ind. to South Bend, Indiana

R.L.GODDIN, Actg. CCC Asst. Dist. Adj.

** Use words "Excellent" or "Satisfactory."
To be taken from C. C. C. Form No. 1.

Typical discharge papers from enrollee at camp Sitkum, 1940.

CCC CAMPS ON THE PERIMETER OF THE TARGETED GEOGRAPHY

ELKTON CAMP GLO–5 COMPANY # 3225

(1933–1942)
I was unable to locate much written information about the CCC camp located across the Umpqua River at Elkton, Oregon, but I did find quite a few photographs from which you can glean quite a bit of the character of the camp from studying them.

GUNTER CAMP # GF -1 COMPANY # 1729 TO # 980

In July and August, the boys at Camp Gunter constructed an 80-foot-long bridge across the Siuslaw River. The main log stingers for the bridge were 36 inches in diameter. The logs were stripped of their bark and were set in place by a team of horses.

As time went on, several companies of CCC enrollees occupied Camp Gunter until it was closed. I didn't find any other information other than dates and companies, but I shall list them here for the record.

GUNTER CAMP # GF–1 COMPANY # 965
(May 2, 1936)

GUNTER CAMP # GF–1 COMPANY # 3431
(October 16, 1937)

GUNTER CAMP # GLO–2 COMPANY # 3225

(June 26, 1938)
All that remains of Gunter today is a small cemetery presumably owned by the Gunter family, as both old and newer headstones were found. I do not know if the camp was near the cemetery or not. The topography around the cemetery suggested a camp could have been nearby.

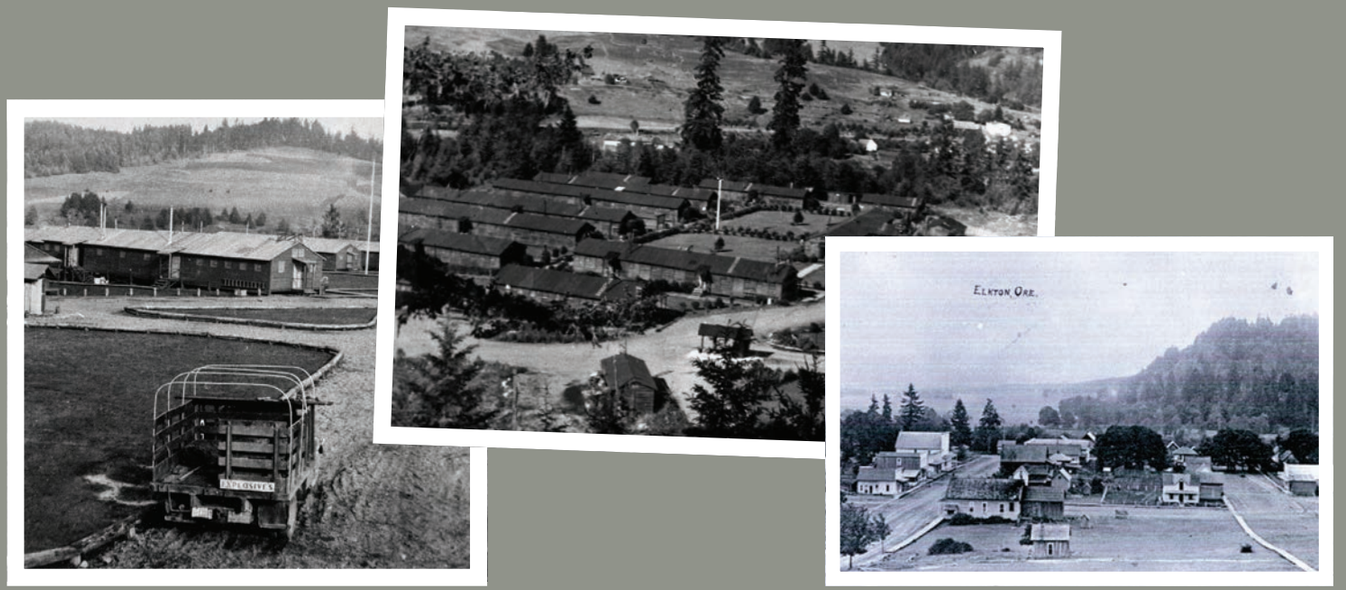
MELROSE CAMP GF–4 COMPANY # 759

(June 11, 1933)
By January, 1934 the men at Camp Melrose had spent six months building a truck trail that provided vehicle access to an area that previously had only a hiking trail with which to bring in supplies to early homesteaders. During the same period, 14 miles of fire protection truck trail were built in and around the camp that opened up vast areas for logging.

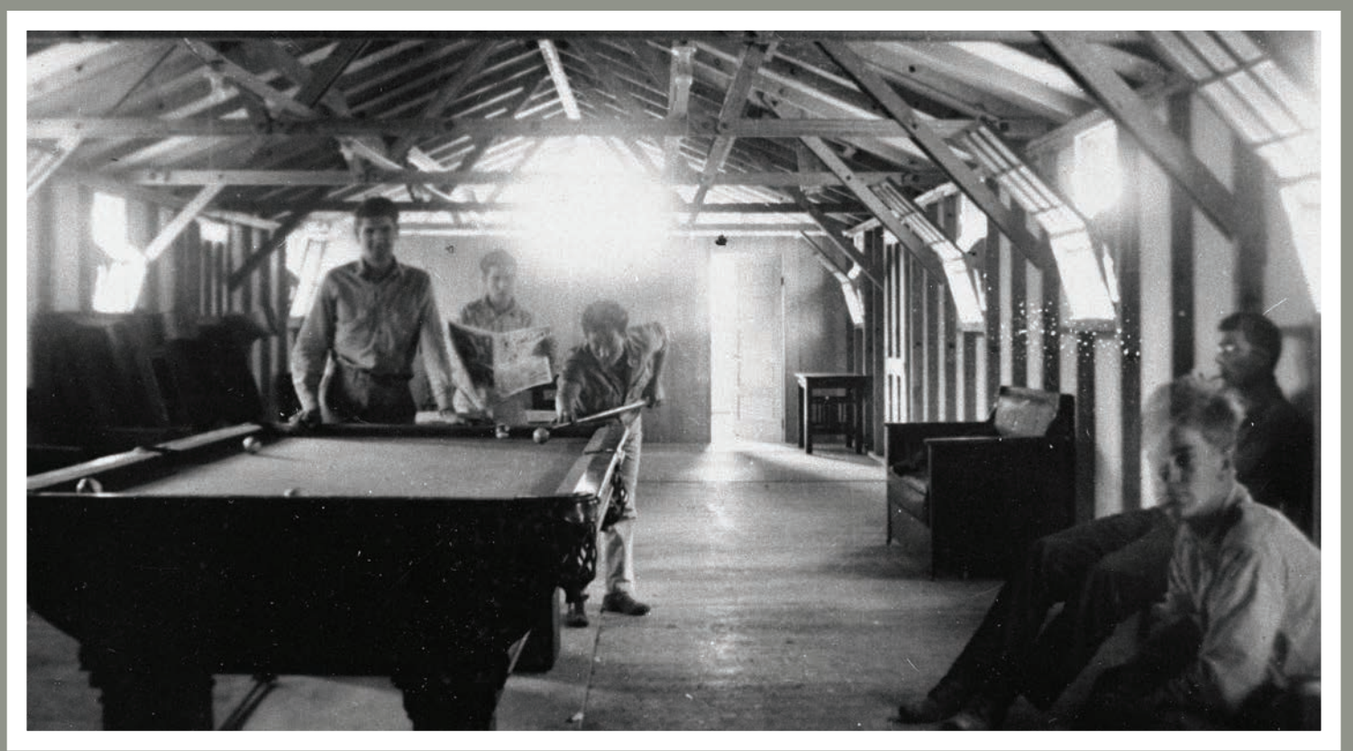
As mentioned in the chapter about the truck trail being built by the men from Camp McKinley heading east, the Melrose enrollees had completed six miles of this road starting at the Reston road junction heading west to eventually meet up with the McKinley bunch.[200] That road was completed in the summer of 1935 at a length of 22 miles and opened previously untapped forest acres of old-growth timber stands to logging. It also made it possible for the large and heretofore inaccessible Tioga Country to come within a maximum travel time of two hours from either the Marshfield or Roseburg Forest Protective Associations.[201] The following article from the *Roseburg News Review* newspaper on January 23, 1934 summarized the projects undertaken by the enrollees at the Melrose CCC Camp:

"…bringing a lost world back to civilization—that is one of the projects that the CCC boys at Camp Melrose, Company 759, are bringing to a head. Many years ago, a group of homesteaders settled far back on the ridge in a section known as Callahan's country. Since that time, nothing but a narrow trail has connected people in this area with the world. In a few months, it is hoped that the CCC project will be finished and the Callahan country people will be able to haul supplies and timber on the new road.

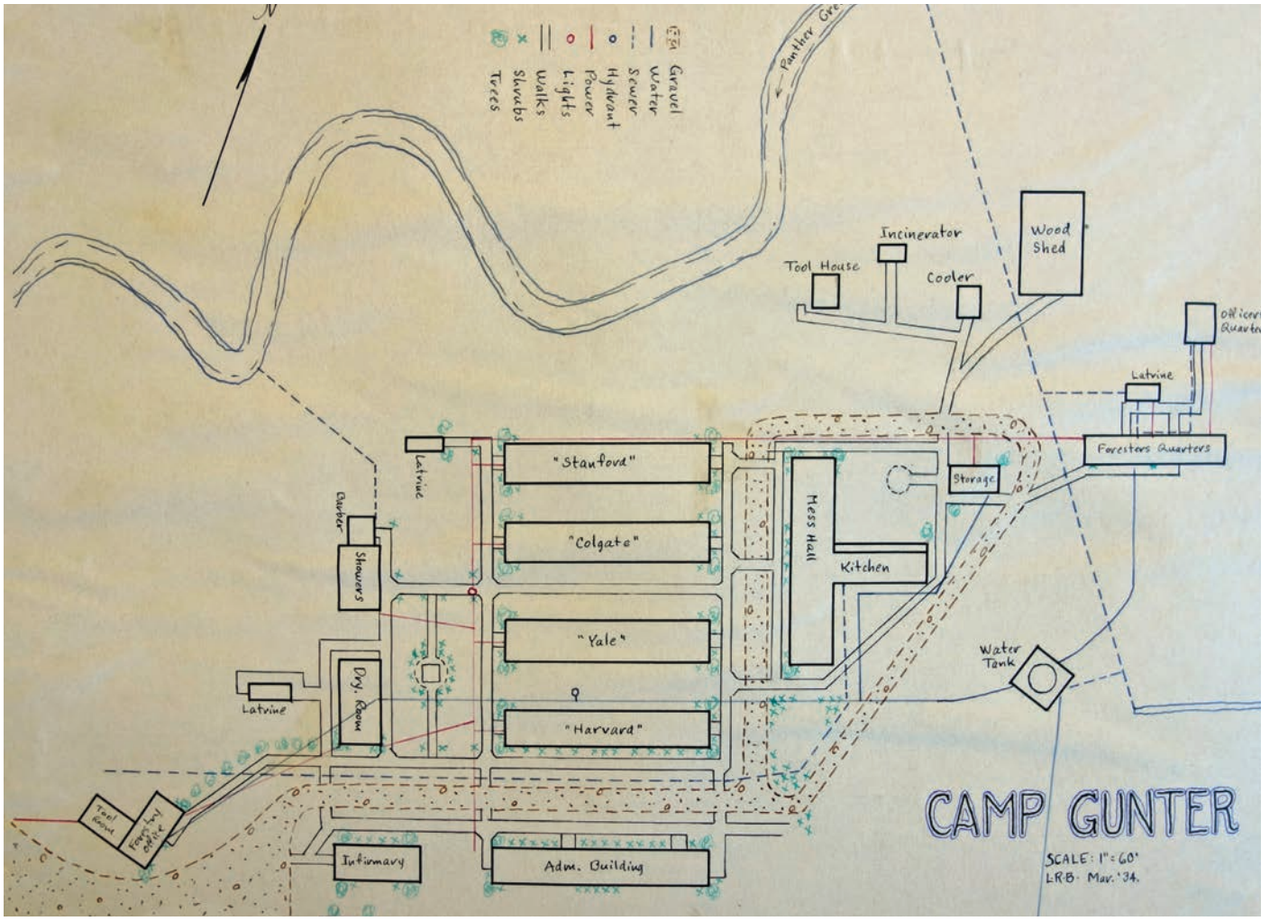
During the past six months more than 14 miles of truck trails have been built through the forest land surrounding the camp. Although fire protection for vast timber resources in the area is the main purpose of the trails, their completion also will open logging projects in the timberland. One road is being built west from the camp past Baughman's Lookout and on across to the Coos River. It will connect with a road which boys from Camp McKinley are constructing.



Left: Camp Elkton. Note the sign on the back of the truck that warns of explosives. Middle: buildings L to R–tool room, headquarters, technical building, recreation hall, mess hall, barracks 2, 3, and part of 4, dispensary, forestry personnel building, garage for army trucks; Courtesy of Douglas County Museum # N 11685, Right: View of the town of Elkton ca 1909. By the time the CCC men arrived, the little town of Elkton had not grown much. Photo from the Internet. https://sites.google.com/site/cccinelktonoregon/home/elkton-and-the-surrounding-area. Right: Camp Elkton—the little town of Elkton can be seen in the upper right hand corner of the above photograph, ca. 1939. Photo courtesy of Douglas County Museum # N 8992.



Camp Elkton Recreation Hall ca. 1939; Photo courtesy of Douglas County Museum, # N 11683.

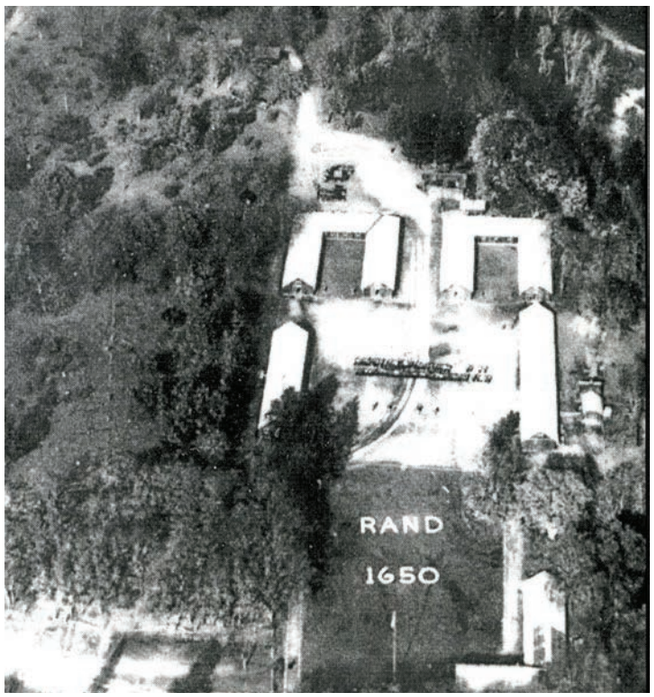


The layout of Camp Gunter in March 1934. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album.

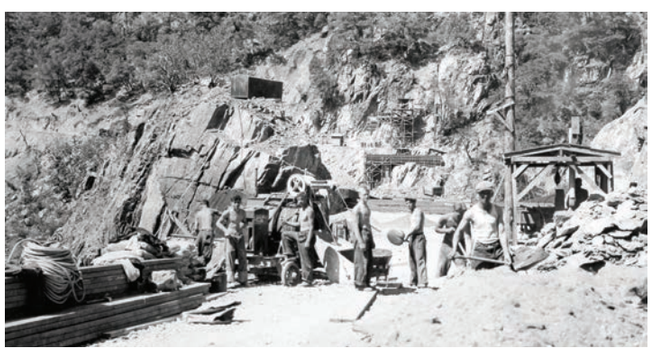
Camp Gunter (aka camp Drain). Photos courtesy of Oregon History Museum album.

The entrance into the CCC camp at Melrose, ca. 1933. The camp was established on property owned by Mr. and Mrs. Willis Fritz. The camp was located about 14 miles west of Roseburg, Oregon. The camp set astride the Baughman Trail. Photo courtesy of the Richard Hansen file at the Oregon Department of Forestry–Forest History Center, Salem, Oregon.

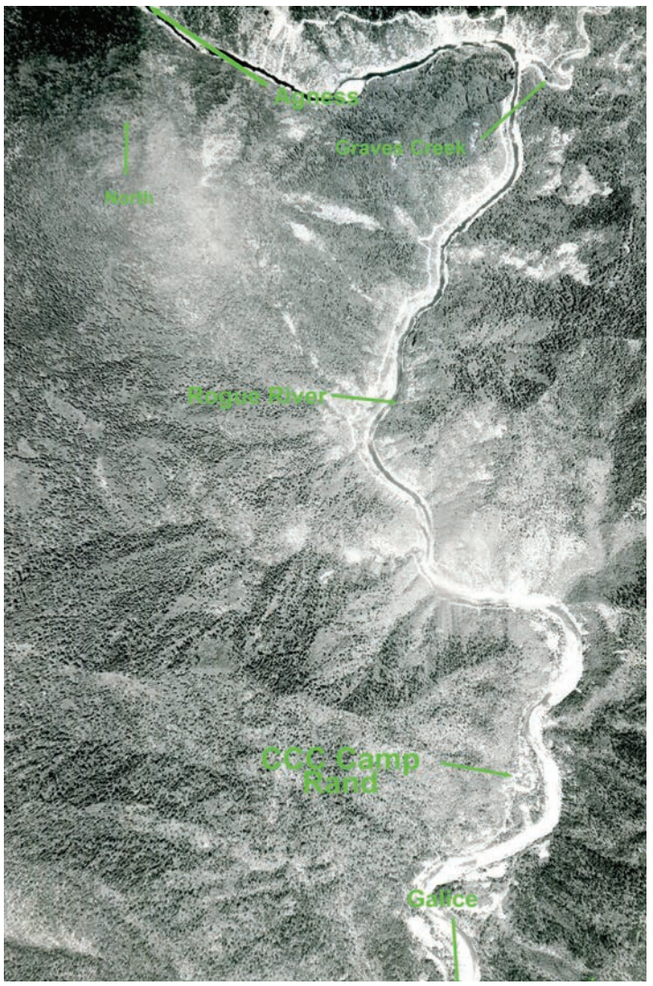
Left: The initial set up of the Melrose Camp, ca. fall of 1933, Company # 759. The fly tent in the lower left of the photograph was the dining area for the men and the tent in the lower right was the recreation tent used for reading and writing, etc.[200] The company originated from Camp Fort Crook in Nebraska. The majority of the men who arrived in Roseburg in June of '33 to occupy Camp Melrose came from a 12-county area in southern Nebraska. When the camps at Remote, Tyee, and Devil's Flat were included, there were approximately 1,000 "cornhuskers" within earshot of Roseburg; Photo courtesy of Douglas County Museum # N 14219 ca. 1933. Right: The initial construction of the CCC Camp Melrose, ca. 1933–34. These wooden structures replaced the tent camp by the time the rains came that year. Photo courtesy of the Richard Hansen file at the Oregon Department of Forestry—Forest History Center, Salem, Oregon.



Two photos above: Camp Rand and the inscription for Company # 1650. Photos courtesy of Bureau of Land Management.



The CCC boys from Camp Rand building the roadway to Graves Creek, ca. 1935. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station at Gold Beach, Oregon.



A 1936 aerial photograph of the Rogue River Watershed showing the Location of Camp Rand, Galice, Graves Creek, and Agness. Photo courtesy of Bureau of Land Management.

So far, six miles of road have been completed from the junction of the Reston road. When finished, it will pass through an area thirty miles square. At present this area has no roadway.

Eight miles off the present road, a new project will fork off to connect up with a Tyee project. This will follow the old Blood Trail. Combined, these truck trails will give access to five townships of virgin timber which is estimated to hold 5 billion board feet of timber..."[202]

The following captures some of the interesting points contained in a letter written on June 7, 1968 about Camp Melrose. It was written by the editor of the *Roseburg News Review*:

"...At about noon on a beautiful sunny June day in 1933, the 18th I believe, a special train pulled onto a siding in Roseburg, Oregon after a long circuitous trip from Fort Crook, Nebraska. Fort Crook was a staging area for the newly organized Civilian Conservation Corps, and aboard the train were the men and equipment destined to be assigned to the Melrose CCC camp. The Melrose enrollees were nearly all from a twelve county area of southwestern Nebraska, as were the enrollees at Remote, Tyee and Devil's Flat Camps. One might say that the small town of Roseburg was being invaded by 1,000 "Cornhuskers."

The citizens of Roseburg fixed up a building at the southeast corner of Cass and Jackson streets, next to Clark's Studio as a sort of Service Club. Easy chairs, writing desks, magazines, and such were made available for the men to use while waiting for the CCC truck to transfer them back to camp, or to just take it easy for a while when in town for recreation.[203]

CAMP RAND # F - 75 COMPANY 1650

(October 1, 1933–1936)

The area around the Oregon community called Rand was at one time the center of many prosperous placer gold mining operations. It was named after the famous Rand District of South Africa where gold mining operations were so prosperous. The CCC company that occupied Camp Rand was organized at Fort Benning, Georgia in 1933 before it was moved to Oregon. The camp was about 25 miles northwest of Grants Pass, Oregon.

Prior to World War II the Rand CCC camp was closed and the buildings were removed. In 1963, the Galice Ranger District closed its office at Rand and moved to Grants Pass. In 1970, the Rand Ranger Station was transferred to the Bureau of Land Management and has been used as a contact station for those rafting the Wild and Scenic portion of the Rogue River ever since. In 1996 the Ranger Station office was remodeled and renamed the Smullin Visitor Center. The Ranger Station was added to the National Register of Historic Places and includes nine structures built or modified between 1931 and 1936.

The main projects for the CCC camps in the lower Rogue River drainage (Agness and Rand—and the China Creek Camp coming in from the north) was to build the roads from Agness to Gold Beach; from Agness to Illahe and on to Powers; and the road coming in from Galice to Rand, and on down to Graves Creek. These road crews struggled with some of the most difficult road construction projects encountered on the Siskiyou National Forest or for that matter anywhere else in the Medford District of the Corps.

CAMP RAND # F - 3 COMPANY 5484

(ca. 1938–)

CAMP RAND F # - 76 COMPANY 282

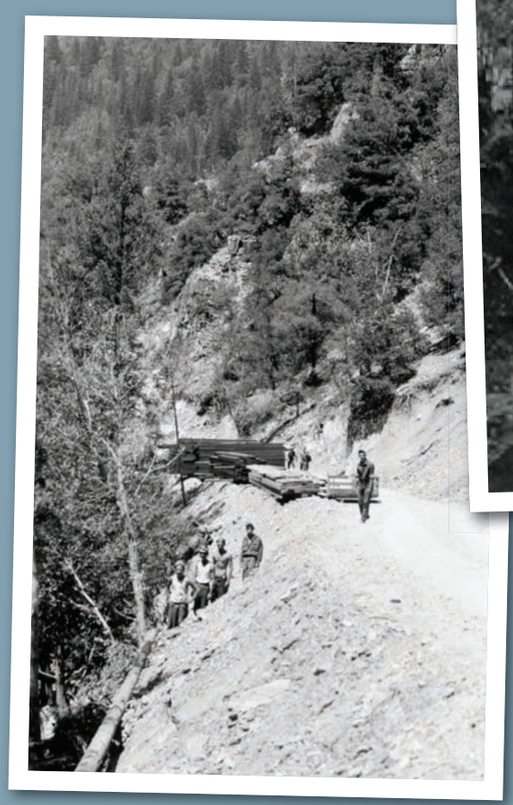
(October 1939–)

TYEE CAMP # GF - 2

(June 1933)

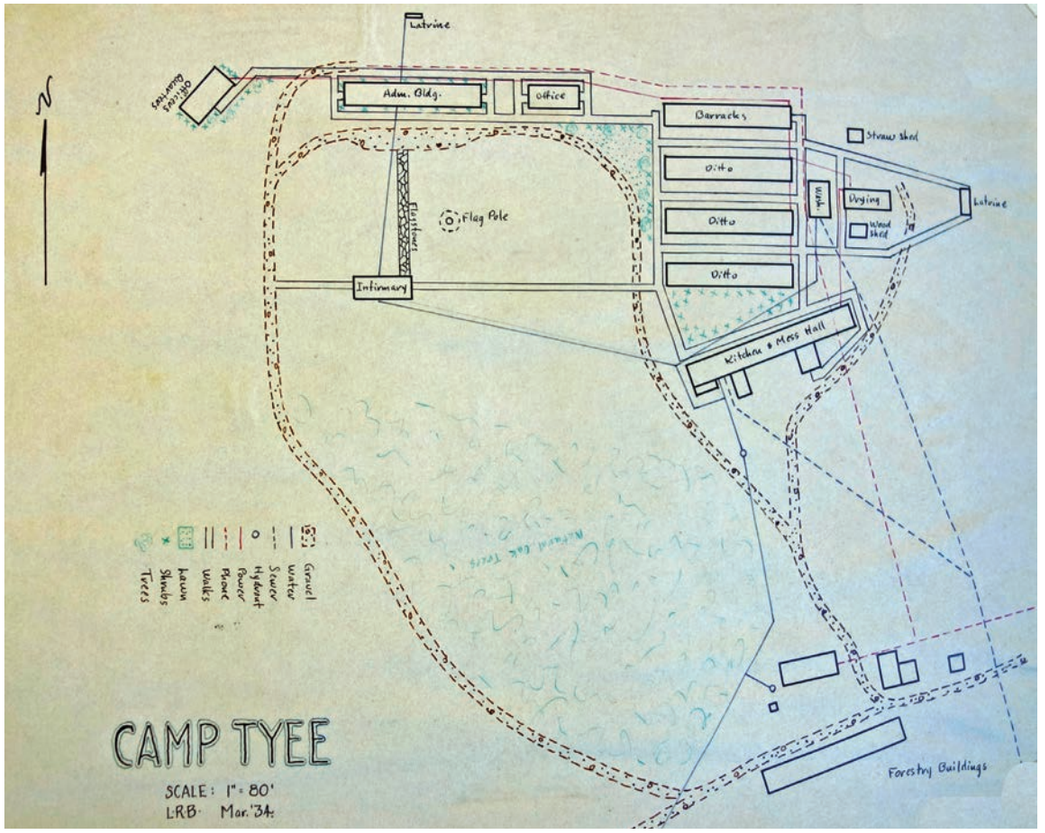
In August of 1934, the boys at Camp Tyee were told they would be moving to the Camp at Coos Head in Charleston, Oregon. They were excited about the move because the new camp was located within a short distance to two large towns—Marshfield and North Bend. The little community of Charleston was only a short distance from camp and the camp paper *The Chatterbox* postulated that the closeness of the towns would give a few of our dance hall cowboys a chance to strut their stuff!

Boys from Company # 1650 Camp Rand ready for a trip to town, ready for some well deserved R & R, ca. 1938. Courtesy of USFS Gold Beach Ranger Station.

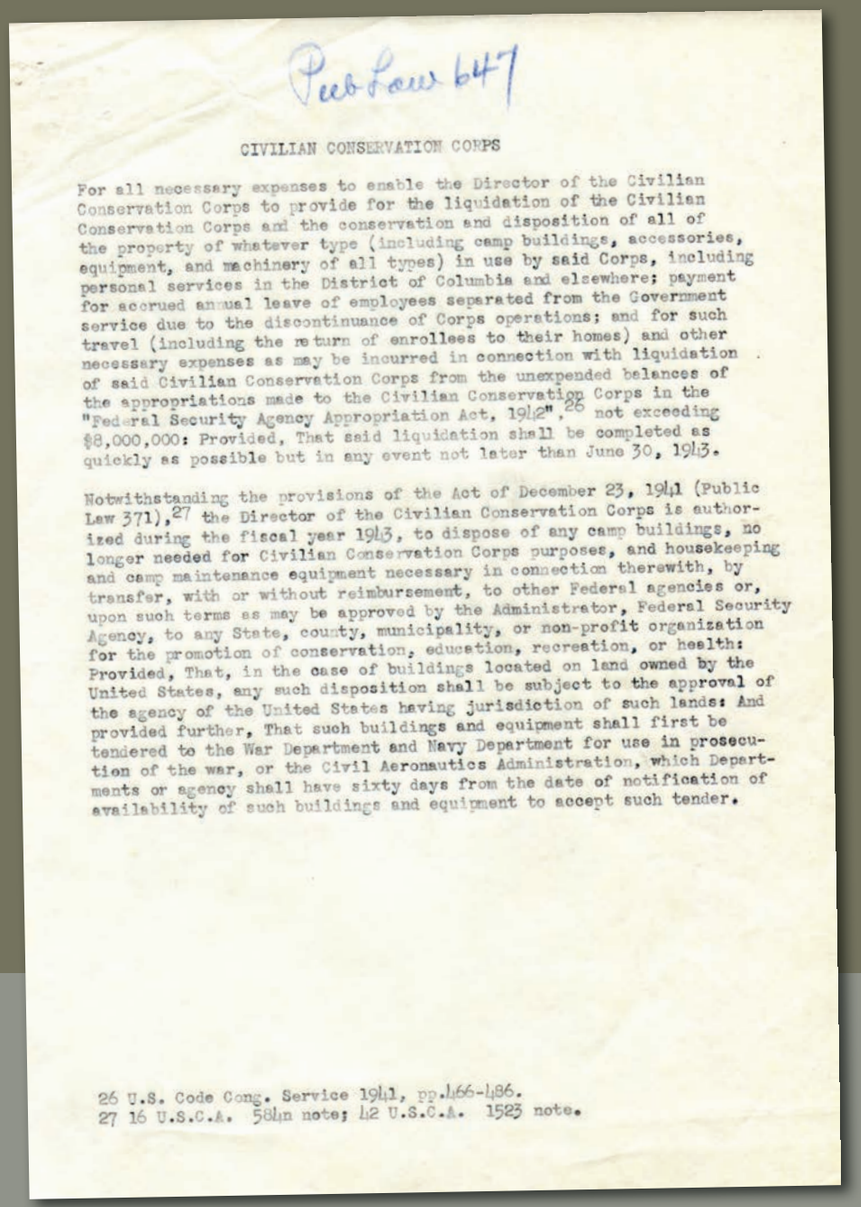


Left: Lumber for planking the bridge at Graves Creek; CCC crew from Camp Rand. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station at Gold Beach, Oregon. Right: On April 9, 1936, the bridge across the Rogue River at Graves Creek was completed by the men from the CCC Camp at Rand, Oregon. The bridge served the motoring public until it was replaced in 1965 with a modern steel structure. Graves Creek is about four miles northwest of the Camp. Photo courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management, Medford, Oregon.

Crossing the Umpqua River to get to Camp Tyee. Photo courtesy of Douglas County Museum.



Top: The layout of Camp Tyee, 1934. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Historical Museum album. MIddle left: The initial CCC Camp at Tyee, ca.1933. Photo Courtesy of Douglas County Museum # 10785. Middle right: Camp Tyee; ca. 1934; Photo courtesy of Douglas County Museum # N 10783. Bottom: Camp Tyee was first occupied by boys from Nebraska and Missouri. They were really surprised to find out that the only way to get to the camp was to cross the Umpqua River via ferry. The ferry crossing on the Umpqua River at Camp Tyee. ca. 1933. Photo courtesy of Douglas County Museum # N 10715.



Pub Law 647

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

For all necessary expenses to enable the Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps to provide for the liquidation of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the conservation and disposition of all of the property of whatever type (including camp buildings, accessories, equipment, and machinery of all types) in use by said Corps, including personal services in the District of Columbia and elsewhere; payment for accrued annual leave of employees separated from the Government service due to the discontinuance of Corps operations; and for such travel (including the return of enrollees to their homes) and other necessary expenses as may be incurred in connection with liquidation of said Civilian Conservation Corps from the unexpended balances of the appropriations made to the Civilian Conservation Corps in the "Federal Security Agency Appropriation Act, 1942",[26] not exceeding $8,000,000: Provided, That said liquidation shall be completed as quickly as possible but in any event not later than June 30, 1943.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Act of December 23, 1941 (Public Law 371),[27] the Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps is authorized during the fiscal year 1943, to dispose of any camp buildings, no longer needed for Civilian Conservation Corps purposes, and housekeeping and camp maintenance equipment necessary in connection therewith, by transfer, with or without reimbursement, to other Federal agencies or, upon such terms as may be approved by the Administrator, Federal Security Agency, to any State, county, municipality, or non-profit organization for the promotion of conservation, education, recreation, or health: Provided, That, in the case of buildings located on land owned by the United States, any such disposition shall be subject to the approval of the agency of the United States having jurisdiction of such lands: And provided further, That such buildings and equipment shall first be tendered to the War Department and Navy Department for use in prosecution of the war, or the Civil Aeronautics Administration, which Departments or agency shall have sixty days from the date of notification of availability of such buildings and equipment to accept such tender.

26 U.S. Code Cong. Service 1941, pp.466-486.
27 16 U.S.C.A. 584n note; 42 U.S.C.A. 1523 note.

Letter of authorization for the Director of the CCC to liquidate and transfer all the camp assets currently in use by the CCC. Source unknown. Courtesy of NARA–Seattle.

PART V
AFTER THE CAMPS

THE END OF THE CCC

With the 1936 presidential election just over the horizon, President Roosevelt was being pressured from many segments of the political spectrum to reduce federal expenditures. It just so as happened that at the time, CCC enrollment was at its peak, and correspondingly, it was the peak in financial support for the program. The nation's economy was improving, and the president called for a reduction of the CCC from 500,000 enrollees to 300,000 by July 1, 1936. Since its inception, the concept of the Corps was to get young men off the street and give them some practical educational tools with which they might be more prepared to find a job—and get them off the government payroll and into the private sector.

The problem was that no Congressman wanted the CCC camps closed within their district. Battle lines were formed in the House and Senate regarding who would lose a camp and who would not. The removal of a CCC camp from a district would undoubtedly cause political trouble for an incumbent's constituency; the program was very popular with the public. The camps not only provided "free labor" for local projects, they also generated significant income for the local farmers, ranchers, and merchants. The closing of a camp was tantamount to political suicide. Since the House of Representatives controlled the purse strings of the federal government, they independently approved additional funding and actually slowed the President's efforts to reduce the enrollment in the Corps.

Even the 1936 Republican Presidential nominee, Alfred M. Landon, endorsed the CCC program and promised to continue it if elected. The CCC had become too popular for criticism. The Detroit News admitted that though the CCC was expensive, "the prompt and unmistakable dividends it has paid, both in valuable work accomplished in the nation's forests and in the physical and moral benefits accruing to the young men who have enlisted," made it "a real investment in the National well-being." The 1936 election was even a bigger victory for Roosevelt than it was in 1932—he received 523 electoral votes while Landon received only 8—Maine and Vermont.

During the summer of 1939, Congress extended the life of the CCC until July 1, 1943. But the death of Robert Fechner on December 31, 1939 was a real blow to the program and thereby Congressional support. During the early part of 1941, Roosevelt fought to retain the CCC, even though enrollment was on the decline. That May he asked Congress for $50 million to keep 150 camps operational. On the House floor Michigan Representative Albert J. Angel led the forces favoring abolition of the program. Declaring that the CCC had done "a great deal of good," in spite of "a great deal of waste and extravagance," the Muskegon Republican proclaimed that the Corps was no longer necessary. Republican Congressman Clare Hoffman of Allegan County, Michigan, a vocal New Deal opponent, added, "We did not have the power to send aid, not even food and medicinal supplies to the men in Bataan . . . yet we have money to carry on this C.C.C."[204]

On the eve of the United States' entry into World War II, the federal debt was so high and the prospect of war so certain that immediate action was required to strengthen federal finances. The Congress and other policymakers began to call for a reduction of nonessential federal expenditures. Their arguments, of course, centered on the fact that reduced spending would save money that could be applied to the war effort. American taxpayers, it was argued, would be more willing to shoulder the high taxes needed to fund the war if they saw that the federal government was acting frugally.

In late 1941, the United States owed $55 billion to its creditors. In two years, massive national defense requirements expanded the debt by nearly 50 percent to $80 billion, with the prospect of a national debt of at least $200 billion. While these figures are modest in today's economy, a $200 billion debt in 1942 represented 123 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). For many policymakers, the debt was so high and the prospect of war so certain that immediate action was required to strengthen federal finances. [27, 205, 206]

This view was reflected on the pages of many of the nation's leading newspapers. A 1940 Chicago Tribune headline warned: "America Limps Financially As Arming Starts."[207] The Los Angeles Times reported that the National Chamber of Commerce cautioned that entering the war would bankrupt the country, if domestic spending was not reduced.[40]

Furthering the call for fiscal austerity was a quickly increasing inflation rate. Testifying before the Senate Committee on Finance in 1941, Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau warned that a "strong fiscal program" was required to counteract an accelerated increase in prices and the cost of living.[208] Fears of inflation as a result of the fiscal situation ran so high that President Roosevelt considered price fixing to control rising prices.[209] Marriner Stoddard Eccles, chair of the Federal Reserve, echoed these concerns in December 1940 in a special report to Congress, encour-

aging higher taxes and reduced federal expenditures as an alternative to deficit spending to finance the war in order to "forestall the development of inflationary tendencies."[210]

The government's logic was pragmatic—spending that was eliminated would save money that could be applied to the war effort. As the likelihood of America being drawn into the war grew, the voices of military commanders, such as General Douglas MacArthur, grew ever louder to use the CCC as a reservoir for military strength.[25]

Special action was also taken at the CCC camp themselves. After the fall of France in June 1940, Roosevelt proclaimed a limited national emergency. Military training continued to take more and more of the Corps enrollees' time. A "5-hour-10-hour" program was adopted in January 1941 that required certain 3-C camps to spend 5 hours per week in military training (during their normal work), and 10 hours per week of their own time doing similar training. By August of that year, most camps were involved in the basics of military drill training.

On December 26, 1941, the Joint Committee on Reduction of Non-Essential Federal Expenditures released a draft report largely focused on programs "established originally as Depression measures." In this report, the joint committee pledged to determine which agencies were essential to the operation of the government and how those agencies could operate more efficiently. In particular, the report singled out the Department of Agriculture as a prospective target of scrutiny, and suggested immediate abolishment of the Office of Education, Works Progress Administration, Civilian Conservation Corps (emphasis added), and the National Youth Administration, totaling $1.3 billion in potential savings.[211]

Although the CCC was probably the most popular New Deal program, it never became a permanent agency. Fewer eligible young men were available after conscription commenced in 1940. As detailed above, following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, all federal programs were revised to emphasize the war effort. The end of the CCC was inevitable.

On the exact date that the Japanese bombed Dutch Harbor, Alaska (June 3–4, 1942) the local Coos Bay paper carried a United Press article entitled "CCC APPROPRIATION BEATEN–Agency will expire July 1; no money—White House Plea that the Reduced Corps be put on war work ignored". It further read in part:

"…The house appropriations committee today voted to abolish the civilian conservation corps. The committee reporting a $1,158,451,660 bill for the federal security agency and the labor department struck out an item of $75,818,000 to continue the CCC in operation on a curtailed basis during the current fiscal year. The administration had proposed to operate 350 camps across the nation.

President Roosevelt had asked its continuance, however on a considerably curtailed basis. He and the CCC officials have pointed out in recent weeks that the CCC has been converted almost 100 percent to war projects…"[212]

The end of the CCC program and the closing of the camps were done in such a way as to leave the uncompleted work projects in the best possible condition. Funding for the accounting of the activities of the program and the transfer of all CCC property to the War and Navy Departments (and other agencies) continued through April 20, 1948. Liquidation of the CCC was ordered by the 77th Congress through the Labor–Federal Security Appropriation Act (56 Stat. 569) on July 2, 1942.[46]

The following government document spells out in summary how the Director of the CCC was to dissolve the Corps and its equipment:

"…to provide for the liquidation of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the conservation and disposition of all of the property of whatever type (including camp buildings, accessories, equipment and machinery of all types) in use by said Corps, including personal services of the District of Columbia and elsewhere; payment for accrued annual leave of employees separated from the Government service due to the discontinuance of the Corps operations' and for such travel (including the return of enrollees to their homes) and other necessary expenses as may be incurred in connection with liquidation of said Civilian Conservation Corps from the unexpended balances of the appropriations made to the Civilian Conservation Corps in the "Federal Security Agency Appropriation Act, 1942", not exceeding $8,000,000. Provided that said liquidation shall be completed quickly as possible but in any event not later than June 30, 1943.

…the Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps is authorized during the fiscal year 1943 to dispose of any camp buildings, no longer needed for Civilian Conservation Corps purposes, and housekeeping and camp maintenance equipment necessary in connection therewith, by transfer, with or without reimbursement to other Federal agencies or upon such terms as may be approved by the Administrator, Federal Security Agency, to any State, county, municipality, or non-profit organization for the promotion of conservation, education, recreation, or health…"

Some of the former CCC sites in good condition were reactivated from 1941 to 1947 as Civilian Public Service camps (see the following chapter), where conscientious objectors performed "work of national importance" as an alternative to military service. Other camps were used to hold Japanese American internees or German prisoners of war.

The Civilian Conservation Corps was one of the most successful New Deal programs to come out of the Great Depression. It existed for fewer than 10 years, but left a legacy of strong, handsome roads, bridges, and buildings throughout the United States. Between 1933 and 1941, a total of 3,463,766 men served in the CCC at a cost to the American taxpayer of over $3 billion (of which $662,895,000 were paid over to the enrollee's families). It may have set a record for the shortest time the government has responded to an emergency between the idea and implementation.[213]

As far as the work accomplished by the 3-Cs in Oregon was concerned, the Oregon Department of Forestry reported the final statistics for the nine years of operation as follows:[214]

941 miles of truck road constructed
2,639 miles of trails constructed
1,669 miles of telephone line constructed
368 miles of fire breaks constructed
84 cabins constructed
40 lookout towers and cabins constructed
288,626 man days spent fighting fires

The effects of service in the CCC were felt for years, even decades afterwards. Following the Depression, when the job market finally picked up, businessmen indicated a preference for hiring a man who had been in the CCC. The reason was simple; employers believed that anyone who had been in the CCC would know what a full day's work meant and how to carry out orders in a disciplined way.[24] I have read several letters written by former 3-Cs men and without exception they indicated that serving in the Corps changed their life.

For the past 40 years, I had driven on roads constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corp throughout southwestern Oregon, but have yet to find a "graduate" of the program to thank for their service. So, I close here hoping that an enrollee who lived and worked in one of those camps covered by this book has a chance to relive old memories—or at a minimum, their descendants will have a better understanding about what their fathers or grandfathers did for this country's natural resources.

During the summer of 1942, James McEntee, the Corps' second director, sat at his desk in Washington D.C. to write the final report on the accomplishments of the Corps. In his closing remarks, he wrote: "…The Civilian Conservation Corps wrote its name into the economic, social and educational history of this country…" "It did even more than that, it started a change in the landscape of a Nation…"[215] Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress 28289u.

Henry C, Link, PhD of Psychological Service Center in New York City put it so eloquently in his book *The Return of Religion* (1936) that I will end with his comments about the Civilian Conservation Corps:

"I know of only one among the many comparatively new government agencies which is helping people to attain the more abundant life, that is the Civilian Conservation Corps. Here, alone the popular conception of an American standard of living and a life of greater ease have been abandoned. Here, the wages are ridiculously low, and even so the earner is allowed to keep only a pittance for himself; the rest must go to his family back home. Here, most

men must work harder than they ever worked before and at tasks whether they liked them or not. Here, men feel tired at night and know the pleasure of an earned night's sleep. Here, men must get up in the morning whether they feel like it or not. They must associate and work with all kinds of people, whether they like them or not. They must eat pork and beans or corned beef and cabbage or what they get, or go without, but such is there life that simple fare taste good to them. Whatever their political or social beliefs, their tastes or fancies, catered to or not by indulgent parents, they must conform to the discipline and routines which these camps embody.

The men who emerge from the rigid discipline of these camps not only have experienced an abundant life, but are better equipped to achieve an even more abundant life. Through their enforced contacts, the men have learned to respect and like people who they would not have voluntarily chosen as friends. Having learned to think more highly of their fellow workers they have also acquired a greater confidence in themselves–the latter being a byproduct of the former. They have come to appreciate a day's work at a job, which if left to themselves would have spurned at three times the pay.

They have emerged from the camps better equipped to give their energies and attention to others and therefore more likely to receive a satisfying compensation for themselves.

If I could make only one recommendation in regard to the American educational system, it would be that all boys between the ages of 18 and 21 be compelled to spend a full year in the CCC camps as now constituted, rich and poor alike."[216]

THE CIVILIAN PUBLIC SERVICE

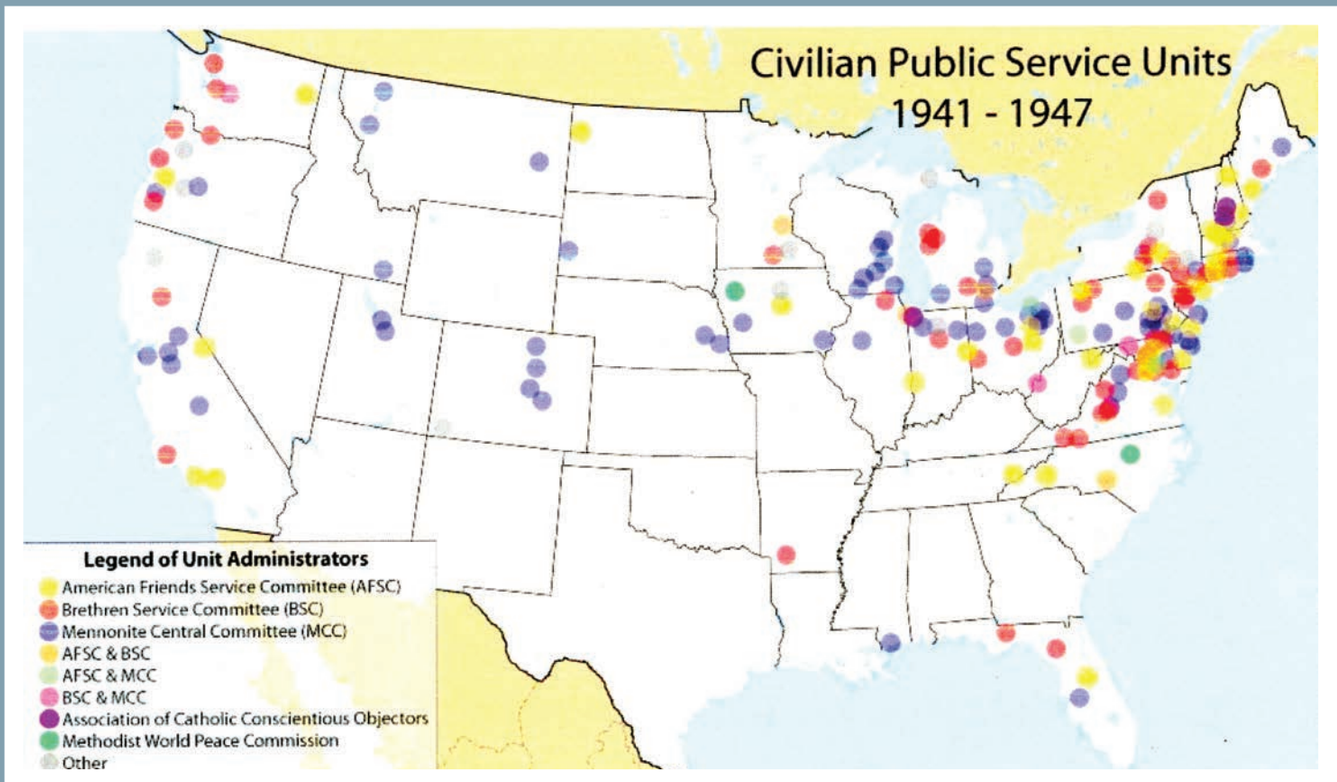
The Burke–Wadsworth Bill passed Congress on September 14, 1940; it became the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 and included a provision for Conscientious Objectors. In reading the preludes leading up the passage of the Act, the influence of the churches was evident in section 5(g), which says in part:

Any such person claiming such exemption from combatant training and service ... in lieu of such induction, be assigned to work of national importance under civilian direction.[218]

The bill offered four improvements over the World War I provisions:[219] The exemption applied to conscientious objection based on religious training or belief, opening the door for members of any religious denomination to apply for conscientious objector status. Draftees turned down by local draft board could appeal under the new law. Assignments to work on projects of national importance would be under civilian, not military, control. With COs under civilian control, violations of the law were subject to federal, not military courts. From the military perspective, it removed the burden of dealing with thousands of uncooperative draftees and the concern that their philosophy would spread to others. Unlike harsher methods from prior wars, the military found that this softer approach resulted in about one in eight enrollees eventually transferring to military service after a time of serving as a CO.[217]

When the actual draft registration commenced on October 16, 1940, no structure was in place to handle thousands of anticipated conscientious objectors. Church representatives meeting with government officials learned that little thought had been put into the program, and the churches were advised to create a plan. Because the government wanted to deal with one body, not individual religious denominations, the National Service Board for Religious Objectors (NSBRO) was formed as a liaison between the churches, President Roosevelt, and the Selective Service Administration. Members of the Historic Peace Churches such as Quakers, Mennonites, Amish, Old Order Mennonite, Conservative Mennonites, and Church of the Brethren Seventh Day Adventists objected to war from the conviction that Christian life is incompatible with military action. These historic peace churches outlined a plan that included running and maintaining Civilian Public Service (CPS) camps under church control.

However, President Roosevelt opposed any plan not involving military control over the draftees, conscientious objectors or otherwise. To save their plan and retain civilian direction of the program, the churches offered to fund the camps. Aides convinced Roosevelt that putting the conscientious objectors to work in out of the way camps was preferable to repeating the difficulties of interning World War I objectors. Selective Service and the peace churches agreed to a six-month trial of church-supported and funded camps for conscientious objectors—and thus Civilian Public Service was born. [218]



The Civilian Public Service (CPS) provided conscientious objectors (COs) in the United States an alternative to military service during World War II. From 1941 to 1947, nearly 12,000 draftees, willing to serve their country in some capacity but unwilling to do any type of military service, performed work of national importance in 152 former CCC camps throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.[217] They performed tasks that few other men were willing to perform—serving as attendants in mental institutions, smoke jumpers and as medical guinea pigs. Many carried on with the road construction projects started by the CCC enrollees as well as planting trees on national and Oregon forest lands—the latter of which included planting in the Tillamook Burn area. Another 25,000 COs served as non-combatants in the military as medics and chaplains. But all had very strong convictions about killing another fellow human being. See Appendix for a complete list of all the CPS camps that operated from 1941–1947. Map courtesy of: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilian_Public_Service.

When establishing a CPS camp, the Camp Operation Division of the Selective Service used the following criteria:

» Was the project important to the government in the emergency;
» Would the conscientious objector perform the work;
» Would the public tolerate the COs in the community where the project was to be located;
» Would other employable labor be displaced; and
» Was the project likely to raise political controversy.

What follows is a rather cryptic copy of a letter from the Selective Service specifically outlining exactly how these CPS camps would operate and providing in "no uncertain terms" that the Selective Service Agency was in charge.

The first CPS camp opened on May 15, 1941 near Baltimore, Maryland. A total of 152 camps and units were established across the nation over the next six years. The federal government provided work projects, housing, camp furnishings, and paid for transportation to the camps. The responsibilities of the churches included day-to-day management of the camps, subsistence costs, meals, and healthcare for the men. When the young men arrived at the first camps, they started a six-month experiment that would extend for six years.68 Throughout the six years many misunderstandings and disputes occurred between the NSBRO and the Selective Service and other Federal agencies. As noted from the table, there were two main CPS camps in the region covered by this book—Elkton CPS Camp # 59 and Coos County CPS Camp # 97.23. There were also at least two side camps associated with the camp at Elkton—one at Middle Creek near the old CCC McKinley Camp # GF–10, where the focus was on continuing the forest nursery project started by the 3-Cs. The CPS men tore down the buildings at the old McKinley camp and built more suitable living quarters at the nursery site in December 1943.221

The above photograph is of the side camp on Big Creek; ca. 1944; courtesy of http://civilianpublicservice.org/camps/59/1.220

The other Camp Elkton CPS side camp # 50.01 was located on Big Creek, a tributary to Smith River above Reedsport, where they focused on road construction and logging. The work at the Elkton camp was directed by the Revested Lands Administration—the forerunner to the Bureau of Land Management.

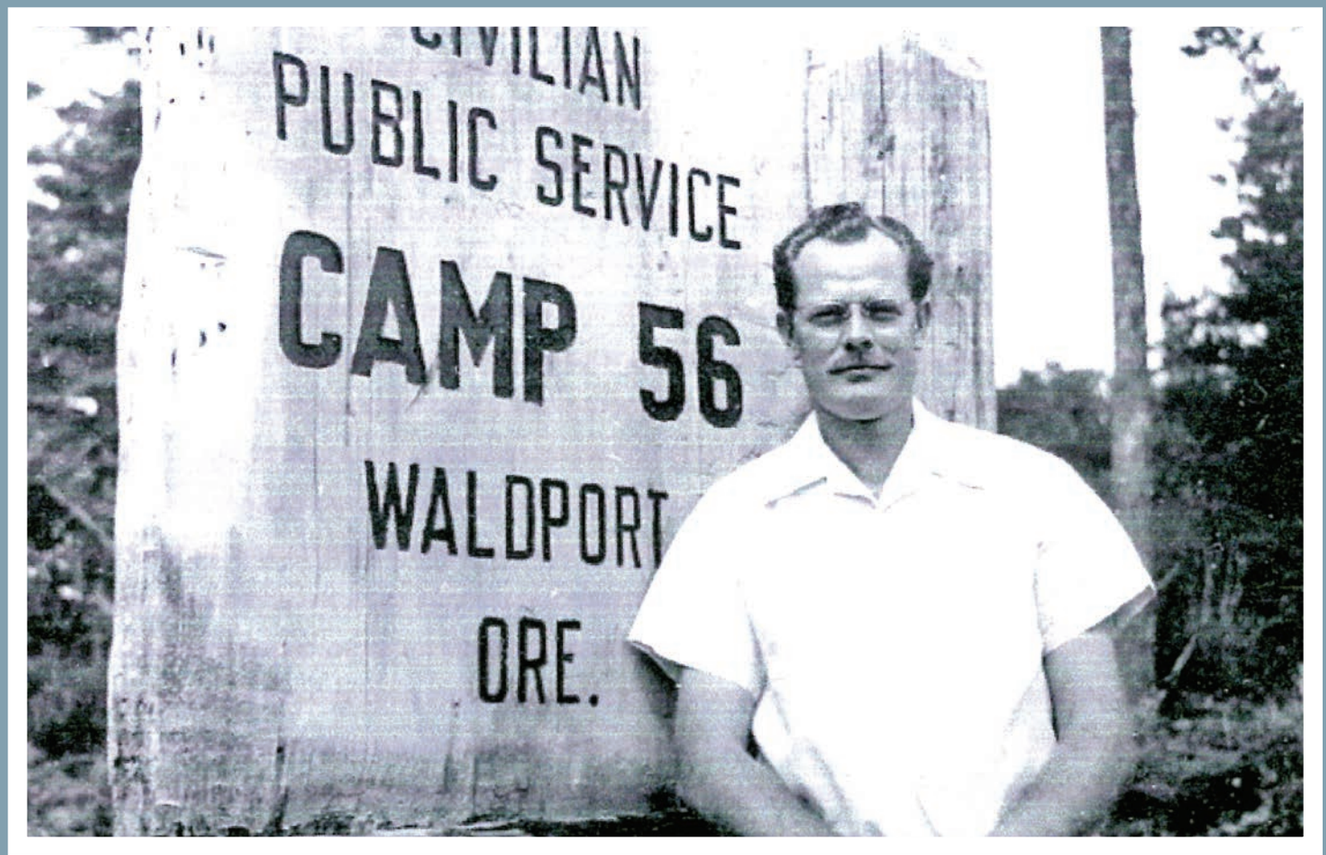
The same website that was sourced above also carried commentary on the CPS camp # 97.23—a dairy farm in Coos County operated by the Brethren Service Committee. There were 34 units within the CPS designation # 97. On July 11, 1945 one of the wives of a CPS draftee wrote:

"...He is running two double unit milking machines. The boss strips the cows. At present, there are fifty-six cows in the herd. In between milking's, they do maintenance work and field work. Next week they will start putting up silage. The milk goes to the cheese factory in Arago (Oregon). On Saturdays and Sundays, he gets from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm off, but of course he still puts in an eight hour day..."

Due to the shortage of farm labor during the war, the government identified 34 counties in 14 states where CPS labor would be useful in increasing farm output for the nation. The men could not work on any relative's farm or on a farm within a 100-mile radius of his home. The program started in May 1943 and ended in October 1946. Unit # 97. 23 was the only one designated for Coos County, Oregon.

Located in the archives of the Coos Bay office of the Bureau of Land Management is a letter, dated circa 1995, from one of the enrollees who worked at the Elkton CPS side camp at McKinley:

"... That camp (McKinley) had one unique feature that I've never experienced anywhere else, the latrine. It was a building maybe 15-20 feet long with 8 to 10 holes in a line over a concrete sump. At one end of the sump was a large tank built on a pivot that was filled by a continuous flow from a spring. When the tank was full, it flipped over center and dumped to wash away the effluent. It dumped every few minutes. We never knew where the effluent went." Emphasis added). [17]



Camp Walport was probably the largest Civilian Public Service Camp in Oregon. The Oregon camps, however, generally focused on forest and agricultural work, while some men worked as orderlies at the Roseburg hospital. There were seven CPS camps in Oregon during World War II; the first of which was at Cascade Locks, and it started in November 1941. Two camps fell within the geography covered by this book *:

Camp No.	Location	Run By	Type of Service
21	Cascade Locks	BSC	U.S. Forest Service
56	Walport	MCC	U.S. Forest Service
59	Elkton*	ASFC	General Land Office
60	Lapine	MCC	Bureau of Reclamation
97.23	Coos County*	BSC	Dairy Farm
97.24	Tillamook	BSC	Dairy Farm
151	Roseburg	MCC	Veterans Hospital

Key to camp administration:
AFSC = American Friends Service Committee
BSC = Brethren Service Committee
MCC = Mennonite Central Committee

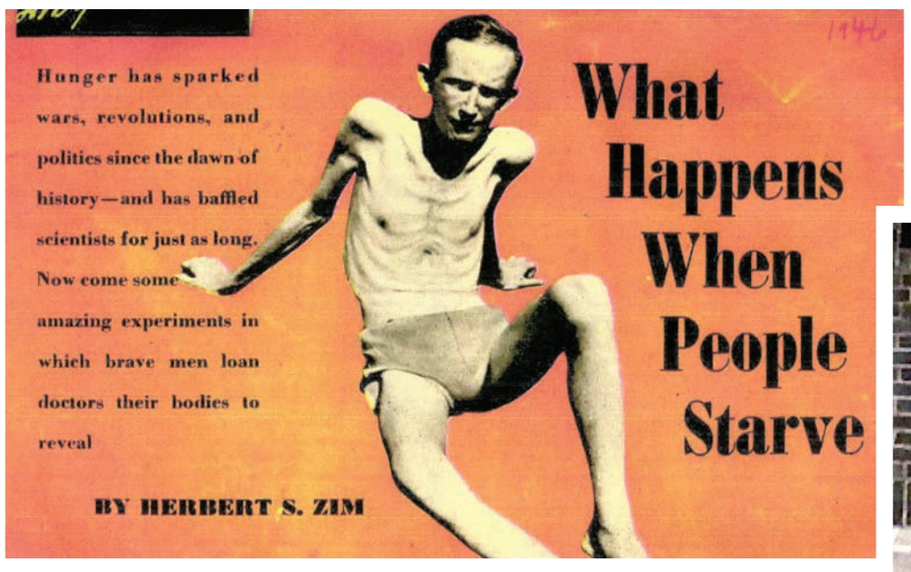
Along with the cover letter, the enrollee included transcriptions of letters he had written home from July 4, 1943 when he arrived at the Elkton Camp, until he departed on November 1, 1943 to another agency. He was only at Camp McKinley for about four months. One of his letters home gave a brief description of what it must have been like travelling along the Oregon southern coast during the War:

"...Came down to McKinley yesterday afternoon. Saw the Pacific on the way and took a few illegal pictures. The whole sea coast is restricted and patrolled by soldiers. We don't have any blackouts out here anymore..."

Another easterner who was transferred to Elkton CPS Camp # 59 was a man by the name of Marion Hollingsworth Jr.

Mr. Hollingsworth gave a more detailed picture of the work done by the men at the McKinley Camp. He remained on the camp roster until 1944 when he was transferred to the Big Creek side camp where he stayed until it was closed at the end of 1945, when he was transferred back east. In his letter he discussed the various jobs he did during two years he was in Oregon:

"...general laborer, carpenter, electrician, quarry worker, truck driver, bulldozer operator and cook. The cook's job was advantageous since for a small crew with only one cook, the job required considerably more than our normal 51 hour work week (six 8 ½ hour days) and the overtime could be accumulated and taken later away from camp."



Stories about the experiments some of the men of the CPS experienced are haunting; it's hard to believe that America conducted such trials. Some men were subjected to atypical pneumonia sprays to their throats and nasal passages with sputum from infected patients; others endured jaundice experiments that involved having inductees drinking filtered raw sewage water; there were also hepatitis experiments, lengthy starvation tests, and testing as to the effects of sleep deprivation—all were all part of the "volunteer and medically supervised" CPS programs.[220]

Another view of the results of a 30-day starvation diet for a CPS enrollee. Photo courtesy of www.swarthmore.edulibrarypeaceconscientiousobjectionCPSResourcesCPSResources.htm.

According to another source, the first effort to establish the side camp associated with the forest nursery in Coos County was to occupy the old CCC buildings at Sitkum. Apparently a flood on Christmas Day so isolated the camp that the CPS moved to McKinley some ten miles to the north.[221]

The website www.civilianpublicservice.org does an excellent job of summarizing the CPS camps, but also carries many personal articles and reflections of those who were in the camps. I could not do a better job of summarizing the activities at Camp Elkton than that contained on that website, so what follows is an edited summary of the material contained therein:[220]

"... In the first year, two hundred and twenty men served at Elkton for a period of time, but with transfers in and out, the enrollment settled at one hundred and fifty men. The initial group came from Coleville, California followed by men from Ohio, Maryland, New York and other eastern camps. Over the course of the Camp's operation, men from 19 states were assigned to Camp Elkton.

For the most part, the men from Elkton fought forest fires, engaged in fire prevention that included cone-picking as well as building truck and horse trails, timber cruising, planting trees, building and maintaining equipment. They also constructed fire lookout towers and fire guard stations. Eighteen men maintained the camp facilities, staffed the offices and kept camp records, prepared meals and heated the Camp. The men living at the McKinley nursery spike camp maintained the forest nursery and pulled the seedlings when needed for planting out in the forest. After a fire destroyed the forestry and officer's quarters at McKinley, the men reconstructed and repaired the buildings. A canning crew preserved tomatoes, prunes and salmon by putting up 6,517 quarts and saving about $800 for the camp during the first year of operation..."
The article went on to summarize:

"...In the early years, the men created regular variety shows in the auditorium offered a film series of two full length films per month for which the men contributed fifty cents monthly, and hosted regular speakers and guests covering a variety of topics. The men made good use of the library and wood shop, small classrooms, dark room, recreation hall and mechanical shops..."

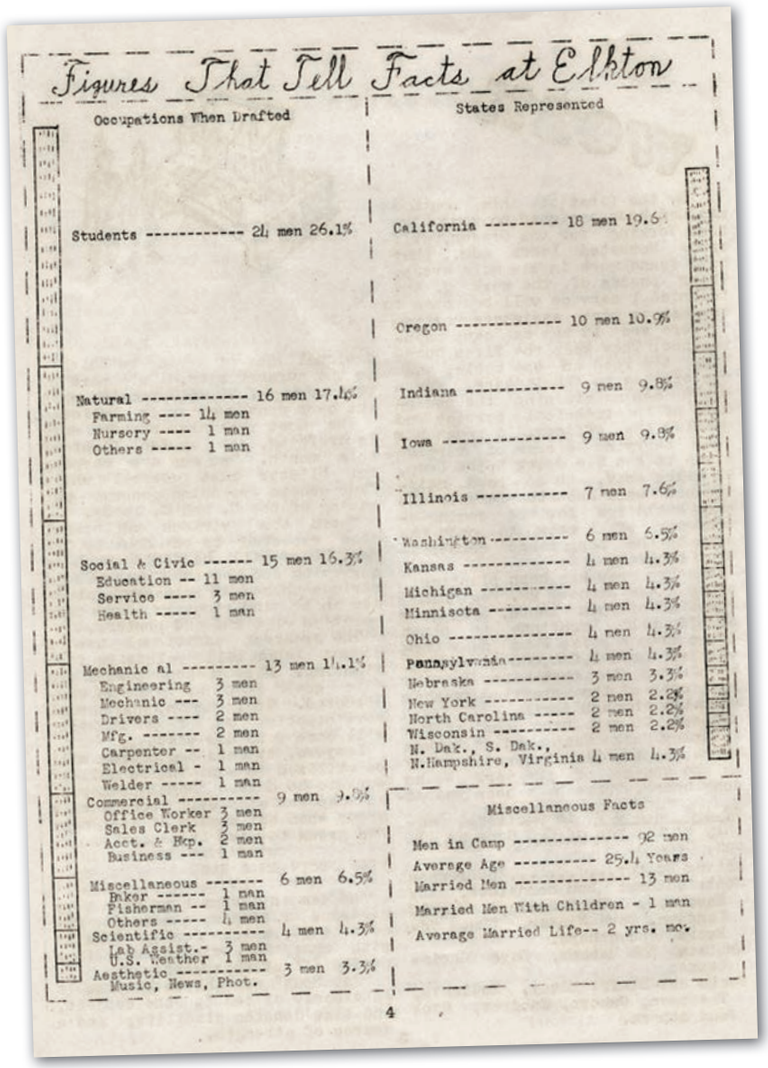
It seems that the "Conchies," as they were called by the locals, got along well with the town folks of Elkton and were welcomed to the various churches and town events. There was good reciprocity too. The camp often offered open houses where events and a meal were provided in the same manner as when the 3-Cs occupied the camp. As far as a camp newspaper was concerned, there were several:

"...One camper produced a one-man paper called the "Melvonian" beginning in May 1943 until February 1946; other men produced three issues of the "Project News" from November 1942 through November 1944; while others produced a paper called the "Newsletter" for one month in November 1942. "Tap Root" was published from February to May 1943.

Beginning in July 1945, the men at the side camp at McKinley published the "Rebel Clarion" which ran until December 1945. The opening issue featured a story of the work conflicts at McKinley and the "bitterness in CPS" acknowledging that the majority of the men are becoming disillusioned with the conditions. In reading the remembrances of men from other camps, there was an undertone of anger and frustration expressed by the men–especially at the Walport camp. Volume 1 number 4 of the Clarion carried the following complaints on the front page:

- The arrest of Americo Chiarito for refusing to work any longer "under slave labor conditions", as well as his rejection by the AFSC-CPS Executive Committee as a camp representative.
- Walk outs of Dave Fawcett and Wes Durland.
- Both Bart Clausen's and Harold Barclay's refusal to accept further work assignments.
- Announcement of the arrival of interim Director Stephen Carey, appointed by AFSC (American Friends Service Committee–Quakers–one of the churches that organized the CPS) after an overwhelming majority of campers declined to participate in the usual election of a director.
- The rapid descent of morale blamed on the heavy handedness of Selective Service, AFSC and the camp "old guard" when dissent first began.

A sizable group of men in the camp openly declared their desire to see the AFSC camps fail and in 1945 some men refused to work, claimed to be sick but refused any prescribed medical treatment. The actions disrupted the administration of Camp Elkton as a CPS program and the AFSC decided to close the camp in February 1945 as it could no longer fulfill its purposes..."



Figures That Tell Facts at Elkton

Occupations When Drafted

Students ---------- 24 men 26.1%

Natural ---------- 16 men 17.4%
Farming ---- 14 men
Nursery ---- 1 man
Others ----- 1 man

Social & Civic ------ 15 men 16.3%
Education -- 11 men
Service ---- 3 men
Health ----- 1 man

Mechanical --------- 13 men 14.1%
Engineering 3 men
Mechanic --- 3 men
Drivers ---- 2 men
Mfg. ------- 2 men
Carpenter -- 1 man
Electrical - 1 man
Welder ----- 1 man

Commercial ---------- 9 men 9.8%
Office Worker 3 men
Sales Clerk 3 men
Acct. & Mgr. 2 men
Business --- 1 man

Miscellaneous ------- 6 men 6.5%
Baker ------ 1 man
Fisherman -- 1 man
Others ----- 4 men

Scientific ---------- 4 men 4.3%
Lab Assist.- 3 men
U.S. Weather 1 man

Aesthetic ---------- 3 men 3.3%
Music, News, Phot.

States Represented

California --------- 18 men 19.6%

Oregon ------------ 10 men 10.9%

Indiana ----------- 9 men 9.8%

Iowa --------------- 9 men 9.8%

Illinois ----------- 7 men 7.6%

Washington --------- 6 men 6.5%

Kansas ------------ 4 men 4.3%

Michigan ---------- 4 men 4.3%

Minnisota ---------- 4 men 4.3%

Ohio --------------- 4 men 4.3%

Pennsylvania-------- 4 men 4.3%

Nebraska ----------- 3 men 3.3%

New York ----------- 2 men 2.2%

North Carolina ----- 2 men 2.2%

Wisconsin ---------- 2 men 2.2%

N. Dak., S. Dak., N.Hampshire, Virginia 4 men 4.3%

Miscellaneous Facts

Men in Camp ---------- 92 men

Average Age ---------- 25.4 Years

Married Men ---------- 13 men

Married Men With Children - 1 man

Average Married Life-- 2 yrs. mo.

4

The Civilian Public Service enrollment statistics at Camp Elkton, November 1942. Courtesy of Oregon History Society.

That is not to say that the men who joined the CPS were not harassed. They were. No matter where they went, people would ask why they were not in uniform. The CPS national newspaper The Conscientious Objector carried numerous accounts of men of the CPS being beaten and harangued by locals or men in military uniforms that could not understand conscientious positions. One story was told about a group of men walking into the town of Walport from camp one night carrying flashlights. The local sheriff approached them and when he found out they were COs he immediately confiscated their flashlights stating they might be signaling the Japanese ships that might be (and were not) offshore!

Early on, friction developed between the recruits (they were actually called "Campers" by the CPS administration) from California and New York over job assignments and how the main and spike camps would be administered. Further, the men at the side camp at McKinley believed that the men stationed at the main camp at Elkton received better treatment, and that the McKinley contingent had no say in how Camp # 59 would be run.

For instance, women came for visits at Elkton, while the side camps at Big Creek and McKinley received no such company. The ideologies clashed and McKinley tended to march to its own drummer, which caused great consternation at the main camp at Elkton. In reading the records of the camp meetings, petty problems became mountains of controversy. One example surfaced involving the selection of which camp would supply the men for the upcoming tree-planting season—a very undesirable job. The issues were magnified when the barracks at McKinley burned in February of 1943 with all the men's belongings being lost.[221] There were also unresolvable controversies with the relationship between the workings of Camp Elkton and the Bureau of Land Management responsible for overseeing the field projects.

The CPS men served without government wages and minimal support from the federal agencies. The cost of maintaining the CPS camps and providing for the needs of the men was the responsibility of their congregations and families. CPS men served longer than regular draftees, not being released until after the end of the war. Initially skeptical of the program, government agencies later learned to appreciate the men's service and requested more workers from the program to do field work. CPS made significant contributions to forest fire prevention, erosion and flood control, medical science, and reform of the mental health system.[27]

As mentioned, churches were primarily responsible for financing the Civilian Public Service, providing for the men's' food, clothes, and other material needs. The churches also provided and paid for the camp director. The men received an allowance of between $2.50 and $5.00 monthly for personal needs. When jobs were available in surrounding farms and communities, those willing to work beyond their regular CPS jobs could earn extra spending money. During the six-year life of the program, the churches in total spent some $7 million on the program, and the federal government $1.3 million. The men performed $6 million of unpaid labor in return.[27, 219] Camp Elkton was permanently closed after three years and two months of operations.

	1944–1945		1943–1944	
Type of Work	**Man-days**	**Work Completed**	**Man-days**	**Work Completed**
Warehouse construction	114	3 warehouses		
Garage construction	130	1 garage		
Other building construction	965	5 buildings	2,875	5 buildings
Storage facilities	50	1 water tower	94	1 water tower
Truck trails	3,097	1.7 miles	4,940	4.2 miles
Truck trail surfacing		3,845	5 miles	
Tree planting*	2,354	1,164 acres	4,162	2,120 acres
Nursery at McKinley	2,511		1,261	
Nursery at Fairdale	410			
Seed collection	56	114 bushels	51	132 bushels
Fire fighting	533	9 fires	1,059	9 fires
Razing buildings	283		790	
Federal land inventory	1,782		1,353	
Transporting material	45		106	
Public land survey	955			
Detached service	5,275		4,222	
Computation timber cruise	110			
Timber cruising	232			
Equipment construction	147			
Sitkum caretaker	167			
Building maintenance	278		275	
Farm work	126		318	
Total	**24,664**		**32,524**	

The above is a summary of the work accomplished by the men of CPS Camp Elkton # 59 during the fiscal three years of operation:[221] So objectionable was the work of tree planting that one of the campers from # 59 wrote the following lyrics to a camp song:

I hope that I shall never see
Another stinking little tree
A tree that has no chance to grow
Beneath two feet of driven snow,
A tree that will in summer brown
Beneath the sun's rays scorching down

A tree that deer pull up and eat
Tamped by some Conchie's loving feed;
Surviving trees will wait their turn
As fuel for the third Tillamook Burn
And perish in its mighty road
Leaving these hills barren once more

And when at last we're mustered out
Of CPS, we have no doubt
Another war will draft our kids
To do as General Hershey bids,
To plant those tree and tamp them tight
While other men go out to fight.

When the war ended, the CPS program was terminated. As one looks back for evidence of a CCC or CPS camp's existence, very little can be found. I read several letters from ex-enrollees or campers in doing research for this book. Some have an undertone of sadness of not being able to

find the cement foundation of the barracks where they spent at least six months of their lives as a young man. The fields now grown up with mature timber or possibly the 70 years of passing had faded their exact memory.

As I searched for the true location of each camp, I had a similar fate. I decided that while this part of our local history might be unavailable for physical inspection, I would at the very least do my best to document in this book this part of our local heritage.

THE CCC LIVES ON THROUGH OTHER YOUTH PROGRAMS

The current Oregon Youth Conservation Corps emulates many of the same traits as the old Civilian Conservation Corps some eighty years ago. In fact, some of the work performed by these young men and women during the summer is in the same region of southwestern Oregon where the 3-C's worked. A brief description of the work performed by the OYCC follows:

The purpose of the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC) as stated in ORS 418.650 to 418.663 is:

To establish a disadvantaged and at-risk youth work program in order to perform conservation work of public value in the most cost-effective manner.

To utilize such a program as a means of needed assistance to protect, conserve, rehabilitate and improve the natural, historical and cultural resources of the state.
To utilize such a program to increase education, training, and employment opportunities for disadvantaged and at-risk youth for the purpose of improving work skills, instilling the work ethic, and increasing employability.

Participants must be Oregon residents and 75 percent of participants must meet this disadvantaged and at-risk requirement: "Youth at-risk and disadvantaged are those who may be unable to achieve the educational, economic, or social expectations of their community." One of the major projects the Youth Corps works on is stream habitat improvement. I have personally witnessed and had employees supervise stream restoration in order to improve salmon habitat by removing barriers to facilitate fish passage as well as placing structure in streams to enhance egg laying.

The following memo circulated within the federal government ca. 1943 discusses and allays any misunderstanding among the administration of the Civilian Public Service program as well as the treatment of the assignees themselves. There was some consternation amongst the assignees and the camp workings and this memo attempted to set the record straight. Courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration in Seattle, Washington.

COPY

Camp Operations Division
Selective Service System

In order to remove certain misunderstandings which seem to exist among assignees relative to the reason for their assignment and their status while in Civilian Public Service Camps, the following outline has been prepared.

Under the Constitution of the United States the citizens of this country have certain rights, these are counterbalanced by duties of equal weight. One duty is service to their country. In time of need it may be necessary that this service take the form of military duty. The Supreme Court has held in several decisions that this is an obligation resting on all citizens but that Congress may grant the privilege of exemption or deferment to certain individuals or groups. At present such exemptions or deferments are based on sex, age, physical condition and to some extent on dependents and occupation. Recognizing that certain individuals had religious beliefs which forbade them to take part in war or to perform military service it was provided in the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 that those persons who, by reason of religious training and belief were conscientiously opposed to both combatant and noncombatant service should, in lieu thereof, perform work of national importance under civilian direction.

There are two things to be remembered when considering the above provision: First, it is limited to those who are opposed to military service because of religious beliefs and does not include political or economic objectors. Second, the selection of work of national importance, its direction, as long as it is by civilians, and the conditions under which it will be performed are left to the President. He, in turn, by Executive Order delegated these powers to the Director of Selective Service.

It should be clearly understood that under the law there is no distinction between defense and nondefense work. That all assignees, regardless of the type

of camp they are in, can now, or in the future, be required to do any work which the Director of Selective Service declares to be work of national importance as long as it is directed by civilians. This, conceiveably, can include the making of munitions, construction of airfields, or the erection of fortifications. Civilians are all persons not subject to Military Law and can include civilian employees of the War or Navy Departments as well as those of Selective Service, Agriculture or other nonmilitary departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

Realizing that many conscientious objectors are as strongly opposed to engaging in what is commonly called "defense work" as to military service it is the policy of Selective Service to choose projects as unrelated to the war effort as possible and to operate them through those agencies that are distinctly civilian in character. But, since the determination of what constitutes defense is a matter of opinion, and since there is no distinction under the law, it is impossible to promise an assignee, officially or otherwise, that he will not be obliged to do defense work. As previously stated, it has been, and still is the policy of Selective Service to approve projects about which there can be little question but to leave the determination of what is defense or nondefense to assignees, either individually or as groups, or to allow them to decide whether they will do the work or not, cannot be considered. These decisions are powers of the Director of Selective Service and must remain in his hands.

The work being done is mainly a continuation of projects originated by the CCC. These are known to be, and have generally been accepted by the public, as work of national importance. Additional projects, such as service in hospitals or dairy farm labor have been added, as well as a small amount of work on a detached service basis. Such work calls for men with certain types of training or ability. There is every indication that the bulk of the work and the majority

of the men will continue to be handled through the camp system. The program is not being carried on for the education or development of individuals, to train groups for foreign service or future activities in the post-war period, or for the furtherance of any particular movement. Its purpose is to do work of national importance as selected by the Director. There is no obligation to provide an assignee with work for which he has been particularly prepared, wished to do, or regards as socially significant. Neither is there any intention of engaging in what is generally called the social welfare field except as it may enter into the regular projects. Assignees can no more expect choice of location or job than can men in the service or a great many civilians. Camps are located primarily where the work is to be done, recreation and other considerations are secondary.

All Civilian Public Service Camps are under control of Selective Service and are being operated according to the regulations promulgated by the Director. Those now in existence are being operated under a dual system in which the work on the project is carried on under the Camp Superintendent who is an employee of a governmental agency or department, while the camp life is under the supervision of an employee of a private organization. This system was developed as the result of an agreement between the Director of Selective Service and representatives of various religious groups who had united in a volunteer organization called the National Service Board for Religious Objectors. Under the agreement certain churches, among them the Mennonites, Friends, and Brethren, frequently called the "Historic Peace Churches," agreed to provide food, clothing, medical attention, heat and light for all men classified as IV-E and ordered to camp by Selective Service. In return, through the National Service Board, they select the camp staffs, recommend the assignment of men to the various camps and carry on the religious, educational and recreational programs. Selective Service provides the personnel and equipment for the work project, certain items of camp equipment

such as cots and blankets, and, in most cases, the buildings. It also pays transportation to the camp and for those who are transferred for the benefit of the government.

Under this system the Project Superintendent is completely in charge of the work project and the equipment. He works under the rules and regulations of the technical service employing him plus such additional regulations as may be issued by Selective Service. He may, and should be, open to suggestions but will carry on the work according to his judgment and the regulations. While on the job assignees are entirely under his control and subject only to his orders.

During nonworking hours assignees are under the control of the Camp Director. This individual serves in a dual capacity being the representative of the church sponsoring the camp and also of Selective Service. As agent of the church he is responsible for the physical and spiritual welfare of the men in the camp. For Selective Service he carries out and enforces certain regulations such as the granting of leave and furlough, accounts for the men assigned to the camp and prepares various reports. As far as Selective Service is concerned the Camp Director is in charge of the camp. The impression that camps are democracies to be run by the assignees is entirely erroneous. They may suggest or recommend but only the decisions and orders of the Director will be recognized by the Selective Service.

At present the camps are operated by the various church organizations but any or all of them could be operated by the government. On the whole, the present system has proved satisfactory to the majority of those concerned. Selective Service is willing but not anxious to organize government camps. Such camps would be in addition to those operated by the churches and would, in no way, be a reflection upon the work they are doing. Assignees would have an initial choice of the type of camp they preferred and transfers, with the approval

of Selective Service, could be made. There would be the same opportunities for special work and detached service and the same policies would be followed in the selection of work projects, which would be carried on under the same technical agencies. However, those serving in church camps cannot expect subsistence, pay or other financial assistance beyond that now furnished by the government. The Director of Selective Service has definitely stated that this will be done only if the camp is operated by the government.

The contention of some individuals that they are being forced to accept charity or that their service amounts to involuntary servitude is not correct. No one is forced to accept IV-E classification. In most cases each man voluntarily requests that he be placed in this class and usually is required to prove his right to be so considered. Neither is anyone compelled to remain classified as IV-E for he can and will be reclassified as I-A or I-A-O upon request. Having accepted IV-E classification he must take the conditions that go with it. Every man receives pay consisting of his food, clothing, shelter and a certain cash allowance. The fact that this is supplied by private religious organizations instead of the government is entirely legal under the law since the Director of Selective Service is authorized to make such arrangements and to accept such services. In return for these funds the churches acquire operation of the camps. Neither are they compelled to continue the arrangement, being free to withdraw at any time. They agreed to provide for all men assigned to the camps and so far as is known have scrupulously kept their word. It is true that they request assignees or the churches from which they come to contribute to the support of the camps. These solicitations have the same standing as any request for the contribution of money, they can be recognized or rejected at the will of the individual.

Since men classified as IV-E and assigned to C.P.S. Camps are not called upon to assume the responsibilities or risks of the men in the service it is to

be expected that they were not extended the privileges and benefits. This applies to pay, the benefits of the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act. The National Life Insurance Act and the Servicemen's Dependents Allowance Act all of which are extended only to those in the armed services. It has also been ruled that service in a C.P.S. Camp does not entitle one to Veterans Preference or to reemployment rights. Neither are assignees eligible for Civilian Employees Compensation at the present time.

From the time an assignee reports to camp until he is finally released he is under control of the Director of Selective Service. He ceases to be a free agent and is accountable for all of his time, in camp and out, twenty-four hours a day. His movements, actions and conduct are subject to control and regulation. He ceases to have certain rights and is granted privileges instead. These privileges can be restricted or withdrawn without his approval or consent as punishment, during emergencies or as a matter of policy. He may be told when and how to work, what to wear and where to sleep. He can be required to submit to medical examinations and treatment and to practice rules of health and sanitation. He may be moved from place to place and from job to job, even to foreign countries, for the convenience of the government regardless of his personal feelings or desires.

In obtaining compliance with its regulations Selective Service does not authorize or have any intention of using physical force. Those who fail to conform to the requirements will be turned over to the Department of Justice for prosecution under the civil laws of the United States for failure to comply with the Selective Service and Training Act. Or, should the assignee's actions and conduct indicate that he is not a true conscientious objector, his case may be referred back to his Local Board for reconsideration as one improperly classified.

It is realized that many will dislike and disagree with the foregoing statements. They have not been prepared for discussion or debate nor to threaten or frighten anyone, but for the purpose of removing certain misunderstandings existing among assignees. They are a factual presentation of what the law can and does imply. There is no more intention of arbitrary application in the future than there has been in the past. Assignees are not regarded as criminals or persons to be punished for their opinions. Neither are they considered as "slackers." The cheerful, cooperative manner in which they have adjusted themselves to camp life and performed their work refutes that view. It is believed that they have a sincere desire to render nonmilitary service to their country and the administration of C.P.S. Camps will continue on that assumption. Through consultation and discussion differences of opinion have been reconciled and a workable system developed which it is hoped may be continued.

APPENDIX

HOW IT ALL GOT STARTED

AN ACT FOR THE RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYMENT THROUGH THE PERFORMANCE OF USEFUL PUBLIC WORK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, approved March 31, 1933.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that for the purpose of relieving the acute condition of widespread distress and unemployment now existing in the United States, and in order to provide for the restoration of the country's depleted natural resources and the advancement of an orderly program of useful public works, the President is authorized, under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe and by utilizing such existing departments or agencies as he may designate, to provide for employing citizens of the United States who are unemployed, in the construction, maintenance and carrying on of works of a public nature in connection with the forestation of lands belonging to the United States or to the several States which are suitable for timber production, the prevention of forest fires, floods and soil erosion, plant pest and disease control, the construction, maintenance or repair of paths, trails and fire lanes in the national parks and national forests, and such other work on the public domain, national and State, and Government reservations incidental to or necessary in connection with any projects of the character enumerated, as the President may determine to be desirable: Provided, That the President may in his discretion extend the provisions of this Act to lands owned by counties and municipalities and lands in private ownership, but only for the purpose of doing thereon such kinds of co-operative work as are now provided for by Acts of Congress in preventing and controlling forest fires and the attacks of forest tree pests and diseases and such work as is necessary in the public interest to control floods. The President is further authorized, by regulation, to provide for housing the persons so employed and for furnishing them with such subsistence, clothing, medical attendance and hospitalization, and cash allowance, as may be necessary, during the period they are so employed, and, in his discretion, to provide for the transportation of such persons to and from the places of employment. That in employing citizens for the purposes of this Act no discrimination shall be made on account of race, color, or creed; and no person under conviction for crime and serving sentence therefore shall be employed under the provisions of this Act. The President is further authorized to allocate funds available for the purposes of this Act, for forest research, including forest products investigations, by the Forest Products Laboratory.

Sec. 2. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act the President is authorized to enter into such contracts or agreements with States as may be necessary, including provisions for utilization of existing State administrative agencies, and the President, or the head of any department or agency authorized by him to construct any project or to carry on any such public works, shall be authorized to acquire real property by purchase, donation, condemnation, or otherwise, but the provisions of section 355 of the Revised Statutes shall not apply to any property so acquired.

Sec. 3. Insofar as applicable, the benefits of the Act entitled "An Act to provide compensation for employees of the United States suffering injuries while in the performance of their duties, and for other purposes," approved September 7, 1916, as amended, shall extend to persons given employment under the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 4. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, there is hereby authorized to be expended, under the direction of the President, out of any unobligated moneys heretofore appropriated for public works (except for projects on which actual construction has been commenced or may be commenced within ninety days, and except maintenance funds for river and harbor improvements already allocated), such sums as may be necessary; and an amount equal to the amount so expended is hereby authorized to be appropriated for the same purposes for which such moneys were originally appropriated.

Sec. 5. That the unexpended and unallotted balance of the sum of $300,000,000 made available under the terms and conditions of the Act approved July 21, 1932, entitled "An Act to relieve destitution," and so forth, may be made available, or any portion thereof, to any State or Territory or States or Territories without regard to the limitation of 15 per centum or other limitations as to per centum.

Sec. 6. The authority of the President under this Act shall continue for the period of two years next after the date of the passage hereof and no longer.

Approved, March 31st 1933.
[48 Stat. 22]

The importance of this act among the conservation measures of Roosevelt's administration, and his intimate connection with it, warrant its publication here. The origi-

nal bill was introduced in the Senate on March 21, 1933, as S. 598, by Senators Robinson (Ark.) and Wagner (N. Y.), and in the House on the same date as H. R. 3905, by Representative Byrns (Tenn.) (Cong. Rec., 73d Cong., 1st sess., 77:1, 652, 701). The bill authorized the President to create a civilian conservation corps from the unemployed to be used on public works such as reforestation, prevention of soil erosion and of floods; no limitation, however, was placed on the kind of projects. An enrollment period of one year was provided for, with no discharge during this period without permission ("except under such rules or regulations as the President may decide"), and a $30 per month pay limit. (A copy of the bill as introduced may be found in the New York Times of March 22, 1933, p. 2, and in the hearings cited below.)

The Senate Committee on Education and Labor and the House Committee on Labor held joint hearings on the Senate bill on March 23–24, 1933. Representatives of organized labor opposed the measure as militaristic and degrading to labor, referring to the proposed use of the army in recruiting and supervising the men, the fixed enrollment Period, and the low, fixed rate of pay (Unemployment Relief, 73d Cong., 1st sess., Joint Hearings on S. 598, Washington, 1933, pp. 44–61, 63–67). (The hearings are summarized in some detail in Charles Price Harper, The Administration of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Clarksburg, W. Va., 1939.) In consequence of the opposition of labor, the Senate bill was rewritten by the Senate committee: the fixed wage and fixed term of enlistment were removed, and conditions of employment were left to the discretion of the president. (A section-by-section comparison of the second bill with the first was made by Senator Walsh in reporting the new version, Cong. Rec., 77:1, 861–872.) A report on the House bill, as amended, is printed, Unemployment Relief, 73d Cong., 1st sess., H. Rept. 13 to accompany H. R. 3905 (Washington, 1933).

In the Senate the bill was criticized for the wide and undefined powers it gave to the president, and the provision permitting the use of unobligated public works funds (Section 4) aroused fears that these funds would not be appropriated. The authorization given to the president to acquire real property in administering the act aroused fears that unwarranted additions would be made to the public domain; on the other hand, representatives of states with little available public land feared that their states would derive no benefit from the proposed reforestation work. Senate amendments included a provision to extend the act to county, municipal and private lands in furtherance of existing cooperative forest fire and flood control measures (in Section 1 of the act as approved); a provision barring the acquisition of lands unless they were contiguous to existing public lands (later repealed by the House); and Sections 5 and 6 in their entirety (Cong. Rec., 77:1,866–872, 929–937).

In the House the Senate bill as amended was taken up in lieu of the House bill. It was criticized as being anti-labor, deflationary, and paternalistic. Its defenders argued that it was a relief, not an employment, bill, and pointed out its merits as a conservation measure: the forests to be created would be economically profitable; there was need for protection against forest fires and diseases; forests would prevent floods and erosion; and it would be possible, under the bill, to protect the new second-growth forests of the South. Of the numerous amendments offered, two were adopted: the anti-discriminatory provision in section 1 and one repealing the restriction (added by the Senate) on the president's authority to acquire real property. The Senate accepted the House changes on March 30 and the president signed the bill on March 31, 1933.[206]

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS: CAMPS IN OREGON

Source: The National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni (http://www.cccalumni.org/about.html)

PROJECT	CO. #	DATE	RAILROAD	POST OFFICE	LOCATION
F-57	226	6/20/1933	Prineville	Paulina	
SP-18	253	11/14/1939	Wheeler	Nehalem	Short Sand Beach 4 mi W
F-96	263	5/21/1936	Crescent Lake	Crescent Lake	Odell Lake 6 mi N
F-112	263	10/14/1936	Redmond	Prineville	Camp Mill Creek 45 mi NE
BF-1	269	8/16/1936	Burns	Burns	Camp Mill Creek 45 mi NE
F-76	282	11/2/1939	Grants Pass	Galice	Rand 25 mi NW
F-102	282	6/27/1940	Enterprise	Enterprise	Coverdale .5 mi NW
NP-2	468	8/20/1938	Medford	Union Creek	Wine Glass 86 mi NE
SCS-7	491	10/15/1937	Warrenton	Warrenton	Camp 1 mi N
DG-62	505	12/22/1937	Bend	Silver Lake	Camp 90 mi S
BR-45	551	10/19/1935	Vale	Vale	Camp 8 mi NW
G-93	551	7/1/1941	Baker	Keating	Camp 21 mi NE
DG-23	557	10/20/1935	Klamath Falls	Bonanza	Camp 34 mi E
BR-88	559	4/25/1939	Redmond	Redmond	Camp #1 1 mi SE
BR-41	568	10/20/1935	Klamath Falls	Merrell	Camp 19 mi SE
BR-44	569	10/22/1936	Stanfield	Stanfield	Camp .5 mi N
BR-77	569	6/6/1938	Redmond	Redmond	Camp 1 mi SE
BR-89	596	12/13/1939	Redmond	Redmond	Camp #2 1 mi SE
BR-76	596	4/15/1940	Bend	Lapine	Wickiup #2 45 mi SW
F-20	596	8/26/1941	Detroit	Detroit	Mary Creek Coffin Mt 1 mi E
F-7	606	5/25/1933	Wyeth (Hood River)	Wyeth	
F-8	607	5/24/1933	Hood River	Parkdale	
F-12	609	5/28/1933	Portland	Government Camp	(see IL)
SP-9	611	6/1/1935	Silverton	Silverton	Silver Creek Falls 25 mi SE
F-15	615	5/26/1933	Estacada	Estacada	
F-103	615	11/2/1933	Vancouver Brks, WA	Estacada	
F-12	615	6/13/1935	Vancouver Brks, WA	Government Camp	
F-7	615	10/28/1935	Cascade Locks	Wyeth	Camp 7 mi W
F-10	616	5/25/1933	Maupin	Wapinitia	
F-17	617	5/24/1933	Mill City	Mehema	(see IL)
F-18	619	5/24/1933	Mill City	Detroit	
F-20	620	5/24/1933	Mill City	Detroit	(see IL)
F-19	621	5/24/1933	Lebanon	Foster	
F-27	622	5/28/1933	Tillamook (Clover-dale)	Hebo	

PROJECT	CO. #	DATE	RAILROAD	POST OFFICE	LOCATION
F-71	622	4/4/1934	Tillamook (Hebo)	Blaine	(see IL)
F-28	623	5/24/1933	Corvallis	Alsea	
F-107	697	4/18/1934	Vancouver Brks, WA	Bridal Veil	
S-220	697	5/18/1935	Corvallis	Corvallis	Arboretum 6 mi N
F-32	703	1/16/1936	Roseburg	Roseburg	Steamboat 47 mi NE
P-210	729	6/11/1933	Eugene	Wendling	
F-23	730	6/11/1933	Eugene	McKenzie Bridge	
F-31	731	6/11/1933	Eugene	Disston	
BF-1	737	10/31/1936	Burns	Burns	Camp Five Mile 63 mi S
F-26	753	6/11/1933	Oakridge	Oakridge	
F-36	754	6/11/1933	Roseburg	Tiller	
---	755	9/29/1933	Eugene	McKenzie Bridge	
P-207	756	6/11/1933	Marshfield	Coquille	
GF-6	757	6/11/1933	Roseburg	Camas Valley	
GF-2	758	6/11/1933	Roseburg	Roseburg	
GF-4	759	6/11/1933	Roseburg	Melrose	
BF-2	795	5/1/1937	Burns	Burns	Sodhouse Springs 63 mi S
F-41	926	5/13/1933	Medford	Rush	
DG-6	926	5/15/1935	Boise, ID	Jordan Valley	Camp 107 mi SW
BR-43	926	10/26/1935	Nyssa	Nyssa	Camp 10 mi SW
SCS-9	926	7/15/1939	Kimberly	Monument	Camp 12 mi E
F-32	927	5/12/1933	Roseburg	Roseburg	
F-23	927	4/25/1934	Eugene	McKenzie Bridge	Belknap 53 mi NE
F-25	927	5/5/1938	Oakridge	Oakridge	Camp 12 mi SE
F-11	928	5/11/1933	Vancouver Brks, WA	Zig-Zag	Camp 46 mi SE
F-138	928	6/27/1940	Vancouver Brks, WA	Government Camp	Summit 63 mi SE
F-11	928	10/18/1941	Vancouver Brks, WA	Zig-Zag	Summit 63 mi SE
F-9	929	5/11/1933	The Dalles (Dufur)	Friend	
SP-2	929	10/31/1933	Vancouver Brks, WA	Bridal Veil	New Benson 35 mi E
F-115	929	5/27/1936	Bates	Canyon Creek	Camp 38 mi SW
F-25	943	5/12/1933	Oakridge	Oakridge	
F-115	943	5/15/1935	Bates	Canyon City	Camp 38 mi SW
F-29	963	5/19/1933	Cushman	Yachats	
P-210	963	4/25/1934	Eugene	Wendling	
F-102	963	5/2/1935	Enterprise	Enterprise	Cloverdale 2 mi S
F-215	963	10/25/1935	Hilgard	La Grande	Camp .5 mi N
F-46	964	5/19/1933	Grants Pass	Agness	
F-45	964	4/25/1934	Gold Beach	Agness	
F-211	964	10/12/1934	Medford	Rogue River	Wimer 31 mi NW
F-51	965	5/23/1933	Bend	Sisters	
f-96	965	4/27/1934	Crescent Lake	Crescent Lake	
F-24	965	10/17/1934	Eugene	Lovell	Fall Creek 25 mi SE
GF-1	965	5/2/1936	Cottage	Drain	Gunter 37 mi W
F-48	966	5/21/1933	Bend (Fremont)	silver Lake	
F-50	966	4/25/1934	Lakeview	Lakeview	Dog Lake 31 mi SW

PROJECT	CO. #	DATE	RAILROAD	POST OFFICE	LOCATION
F-119	966	10/29/1935	Klamath Falls	Bly	Camp 54 mi NE
F-50	966	6/15/1940	Lakeview	Lakeview	Dog Lake 31 mi SW
F-1	979	5/19/1933	Enterprise	Imnaha	
GF-3	979	10/19/1933	Roseburg	Camas Valley	Bradford/Upper Rock Creek
F-111	979	6/8/1936	Medford	Diamond Lake	Camp 85 mi NE
F-64	980	5/20/1933	Bates	Austin	
F-63	980	4/21/1934	Austin	Austin	
F-113	980	4/23/1935	Baker	Baker	Camp 1 mi W
F-56	981	5/20/1933	Prineville	Post	
S-204	981	10/31/1933	Reedsport	Reedsport	Camp Walker
P-228	981	9/20/1937	Reedsport	Reedsport	Current High School
MA-1	1209	10/18/1939	Marshfield	Charleston	Coos Head
SP-10	1213	11/6/1935	Cushman	Glenada	Woahink Lake 7 mi SW
MA-2	1213	10/18/1939	Medford	Medford	Prescott 5 mi E
F-115	1231	10/13/1937	Baker	Canyon City	Canyon Creek 110 mi SW
F-51	1242	6/20/1933	Bates	John Day	
F-59	1243	6/20/1933	Bates	John Day	
F-3	1244	6/20/1933	Baker	Baker	
F-6	1245	6/20/1933	Heppner	Hardman	
SP-11	1258	11/2/1935	Seaside	Seaside	Saddle Mtn 13 mi SE
BF-2	1261	5/5/1936	Burns	Burns	
P-209	1263	6/27/1933	Molalla	Molalla	
F-20	1263	10/19/1933	Mill City	Detroit	
BR-43	1271	10/11/1937	Nyssa	Nyssa	Camp 10 mi SW
DG-68	1294	11/1/1937	Bend	Brothers	Fredrick Butte 56 mi SE
F-65	1305	6/16/1933	Baker (Sumpter)	Granite	
F-36	1305	10/24/1933	Grants Pass	Azalea	
F-5	1309	6/14/1933	LaGrande	LaGrande	
F-100	1309	4/30/1934	Weston	Weston	
P-227	1313	4/4/1934	Timber	Timber	
F-109	1314	6/29/1934	Lebanon	Cascadia	
P-206	1316	10/27/1933	Astoria	Olney	
P-214	1443	10/16/1937	Silverton	Sublimity	Mill City 19 mi S
F-7	1452	10/15/1937	Cascade Locks	Cascade Locks	Camp 7 mi W
F-110	1454	10/16/1937	Redmond	Camp Sherman	Sisters 36 mi NW
F-96	1454	5/25/1940	Crescent Lake	Crescent Lake	Odell Lake 6 mi N
F-110	1454	11/1/1940	Redmond	Camp Sherman	Camp 56 mi SW
SCS-5	1469	10/16/1937	Maupin	Simnasho	Camp 25 mi SW
F-104	1510	12/21/1937	Medford	Butte Falls	South Fork Rogue River 48 mi NE
GLO-3	1534	12/21/1937	Marshfield	Sitkum	
G(F)9	1555	6/11/1933	Ashland	Ashland	
NP-1	1555	4/25/1934	Medford	Crater Lake	

PROJECT	CO. #	DATE	RAILROAD	POST OFFICE	LOCATION
GF-1	1622	4/22/1934	Roseburg	Roseburg	
SP-8	1622	10/26/1934	Marshfield	Charleston	
GF-5	1622	1/14/1936	Marshfield	Sitkum	Camp 48 mi NW
F-102	1624	5/7/1934	Enterprise	Enterprise	
F-32	1626	5/15/1934	Roseburg	Roseburg	
BF-1	1626	5/15/1935	Burns	Burns	Sodhouse Springs 63 mi S
BF-3	1626	10/11/1935	Burns	Burns	Buena Vista 49 mi S
F-105	1627	4/23/1934	Marshfield	Powers	China Flats
F-50	1629	4/15/1934	Roseburg	Tiller	
DG-5	1629	5/15/1935	Burns	Burns	Gap Ranch 41 mi E
DG-24	1629	10/23/1935	Burns	Burns	Squaw Butte 48 mi SW
NP-1&-2	1634	4/15/1934	Klamath Falls(Medford)	Crater Lake	Annie Springs 56 mi NW
NP-1	1634	6/23/1936	Medford	Butte Falls	Annie Springs 81 mi NE
SP-3	1636	5/7/1934	Meacham	Meacham	
SP-5	1636	10/16/1934	Seaside	Cannon Beach	Ecolab 10 mi E
F-40	1642	6/8/1933	Klamath Falls(Medford)	Lake of Woods	(Rogue River)
F-104	1642	5/9/1934	Medford	Butte Falls	South Fork Rogue River 45 mi NE
P-203	1645	6/8/1933	Bly (Klamath Falls)	Bly	
F-49	1647	6/7/1933	Lakeview (Fremont)	Lakeview	
F-52	1648	6/23/1933	Bend	Bend	
F-57	1648	4/21/1934	Prineville	Prineville	
F-112	1648	5/25/1935	Redmond	Prineville	Mill Creek 45 mi NE
GF-10	1649	6/23/1933	Marshfield	McKinley	Camp 46 mi SE
F-43	1650	6/1/1933	Glendale	Glendale	
F-75	1650	10/1/1933	Grants Pass	Grants Pass	Rand 35 mi NW
F-38	1651	6/13/1933	Medford	Union Creek	
P-1	1652	6/12/1933	Medford	Medford	Crater Lake National Park
SP-4	1652	4/23/1934	Cascade	Wyeth	
SP-3	1652	5/2/1935	Meacham	Meacham	Emigrant Springs 4 mi W
SP-13	1652	11/2/1935	Medford	Medford	Prescott 5 mi E
P-2	1653	6/12/1933	Klamath Falls	Medford	Crater Lake National Park
P--202	1654	6/21/1933	St. Helens	Wilerk	
P-205	1655	6/22/1933	Clatskanie	Mist	
P_208	1656	6/22/1933	Clatskanie	Elsie	
S-201	1726	6/13/1933	Marshfield	Reedsport	(see AR & MO)
F-42	1727	6/13/1933	Marshfield	Powers	(see AR)
GF-1	1729	6/13/1933	Eugene (Cottage)	Drain	
F-47	1746	6/6/1933	Grants Pass	Selma	Siskiyou NP

PROJECT	CO. #	DATE	RAILROAD	POST OFFICE	LOCATION
F-30	1746	9/25/1933	Reedsport	Mapleton	
F-72	1746	4/23/1934	Gold Beach	Pistol River	
F-37	1747	6/7/1933	Medford	Trail	Rogue River NP
F-38	1747	4/25/1934	Medford	Union Creek	
F-30	1748	9/25/1933	Mapleton	Mapleton	
F-33	1921	6/27/1933	Roseburg	Roseburg	
F-72	1922	9/12/1933	Grants Pass	Carpentersville	
F-14	1922	4/23/1934	Vancouver Brks, WA	Government	
P-214	1922	10/21/1934	Silverton	Sublimity	Mill City 19 mi N
S-220	1922	6/5/1936	Corvallis	Corvallis	Arboretum 6 mi N
GF-7	1990	10/17/1934	Medford	Medford	Evans Creek 30 mi NW
F-45	1992	6/7/1935	Gold Beach	Agness	Camp 38 mi NE
F-38	1993	6/7/1935	Medford	Union Creek	Upper Rogue River 57 mi NE
P-218	2106	10/22/1935	Lebanon	Lacomb	Crabtree 13.5 mi NE
P-2-4	2106	4/1/1937	Silverton	Sublimity	Mill City 19 mi S
P-219	2107	10/28/1935	Mapleton	Blachly	Triangle Lake 24 mi NE
P-216	2108	10/25/1935	Falls City	Falls City	Triangle Lake 24 mi NE
P-227	2108	4/1/1937	Timber	Timber	Rochers 2 mi S
P-217	2109	10/28/1935	Tillamook	Tillamook	Track 14 mi E
F-102	2110	5/2/1936	Enterprise	Enterprise	Cloverdale .5 mi NW
F-115	2110	5/2/1937	Bates	Canyon City	Canyon Creek 38 mi SW
SCS-7	2111	10/19/1935	Warrenton	Warrenton	Camp 1 mi N
SCS-1	2112	10/26/1935	Gibbon	Gibbon	Squaw Creek 3 mi N
SCS-2	2113	10/26/1935	Heppner	Heppner	AT-RH
SCS-4	2114	10/27/1935	Moro	Moro	AT-RH
SCS-5	2115	10/26/1935	Maupin	Simnasho	Camp 25 mi SW
DG-5	2504	5/7/1936	Burns	Burns	Gap Ranch 41 mi W
DG-24	2504	10/15/1936	Burns	Burns	Squaw Butte 46 mi S
SCS-3	2505	10/18/1935	Juntura	Beulah	Camp 15 mi N
BR-43	2523	6/1/1935	Nyssa	Nyssa	Camp 10.5 mi NW
F-45	2523	10/17/1935	Gold Beach	Agness	Camp 38 mi NE
BR-45	2524	6/1/1935	Vale	Vale	Camp 8 mi NW
SP-13	2526	6/14/1935	Medford	Medford	Prescott 5 mi E
DG-23	2527	6/28/1935	Klamath Falls	Bonanza	Camp 34 mi E
BR-41	2631	6/14/1935	Klamath Falls	Merrell	Camp 19 mi SE
F-218	2632	6/14/1935	Lebanon	Lacomb	Crabtree 135 mi W
P-219	2633	6/14/1935	Mapleton	Blachly	Triangle Lake 24 mi W
SP-10	2634	6/14/1935	Cushman	Glenada	Woahink Lake 7 mi N
SP-11	2635	6/14/1935	Seaside	Seaside	Saddle Mtn 13 mi N
P-221	2636	6/14/1935	Wheeler	Fossil	Nehalem 9 mi W
F-121	2637	6/14/1935	Bend	Fort Rock	Cabin Lake 55 mi SE

PROJECT	CO. #	DATE	RAILROAD	POST OFFICE	LOCATION
P-215	2638	6/14/1935	Hilgard	LaGrande	Camp .5 mi N
P-216	2639	6/7/1935	Falls City	Falls City	Black Rock 15 mi N
P-217	2640	6/7/1935	Tillamook	Tillamook	Trask 14.5 mi W
ARMY-1	2641	6/7/1935	Ft. Stephens	Ft. Stephens	Camp .5 mi E
SCS-3	2652	6/10/1935	Juntura	Beulah	Camp 19 mi N
F-41	2702	1/16/1936	Medford	Rush	Applegate 35 mi SW
F-116	2903	6/15/1935	Pendleton	Albee	Ukiah 55 mi S
F-36	2904	10/24/1933	Grants Pass	Azalea	Devil's Flat 59 mi NE
F-117	2904	7/22/1935	Roseburg	Tiller	South Umpqua Falls 65 mi SE
F-100	2905	6/1/1935	Weston	Weston	Moffet Creek 35 mi E
P-227	2906	4/4/1934	Timber	Timber	Reeders 2 mi S
F-100	2906	5/24/1936	Weston	Weston	Moffet Creek 35 mi E
F-109	2907	6/29/1934	Lebanon	Cascadia	Camp 28 mi SE
F-20	2907	5/5/1938	Detroit	Detroit	Mary Creek - Coffin Mtn 1 mi E
P-206	2908	10/27/1933	Astoria	Olney	Boyington 18 mi S
P-221	2908	11/4/1935	Wheeler	Fossil	Nehalen 9 mi NE
F-96	2909	5/2/1935	Crescent Lake	Crescent Lake	Odell Lake 6 mi N
SCS-7	2934	6/21/1935	Warrenton	Warrenton	
SCS-2	2945	4/9/1938	Heppner	Heppner	AT-RH
SP-9	2946	6/30/1935	Silverton	Silverton	Silver Creek Falls 25 mi SE
F-136	3201	10/15/1937	Gibbon	Gibbon	Squaw Creek 3 mi N
GLO-7	3204	10/10/1939	Grants Pass	Williams	Williams Creek 23 mi SE
P-215	3217	10/13/1937	Hilgard	LaGrande	Camp .5 mi W
F-229	3217	10/18/1939	Elgin	Elgin	Camp 1 mi NW
BR-42	3217	8/22/1941	Ontario	Ontario	Camp 6 mi N
GLO-5	3225	6/26/1938	Drain	Elkton	Camp 15 mi W
GLO-2	3225	7/1/1938	Roseburg	Drain	Gunter 61 mi NW
BR-42	3233	4/13/1936	Ontario	Ontario	Camp 6 mi W
SP-10	3270	10/28/1939	Cushman	Glenada	Woahink Lake 7 mi SW
G-93	3274	7/22/1938	Baker	Keating	Camp 21 mi NE
P-219	3402	10/16/1937	Mapleton	Blachly	Triangle Lake 24 mi NE
BF-4	3442	10/17/1937	Lake View	Lake View	Hart Mtn 55 mi NE
F-32	3450	10/17/1937	Roseburg	Idlewild Park	Steamboat 47 mi NE
S-220	3503	12/20/1937	Corvallis	Corvallis	Arboretum 6 mi N
BR-90	3530	12/13/1939	Redmond	Redmond	Camp #3 1 mi SE
BR-77	3530	4/17/1940	Bend	Lapine	Wickiup #3 45 mi SW
GLO-4	3558	12/21/1937	Marshfield	McKinley	
G-91	3567	7/26/1938	Lakeview	Valley Falls	Alkali Lake 63 mi NE
G-89	3690	7/12/1938	Caldwell, ID	Jordan Valley	Camp 65 mi S
G-151	3691	10/31/1939	Venator	Venator	AT-RH
NP-2	3864	2/18/1937	Medford	Union Creek	Wine Glass 86 mi NE

PROJECT	CO. #	DATE	RAILROAD	POST OFFICE	LOCATION
F-104	3865	12/11/1936	Medford	Butte Falls	South Fork Rogue River 42 mi NE
F-111	3870	6/7/1937	Medford	Diamond Lake	Camp 85 mi NE
NM-1	3873	10/16/1936	Grants Pass	Kirby	Oregon Caves 45 mi S
GF-5	3874	10/12/1936	Marshfield	Sitkum	
DG-82	3878	10/15/1936	Bend	Silver Lake	Camp 90 mi S
GF-10	3881	10/12/1936	Marshfield	McKinley	Camp 45 mi SE
F-32	4240	6/12/1935	Roseburg	Roseburg	Steamboat 47 mi SE
F-37	4241	6/12/1935	Medford	Trail	Elk Creek 40 mi NW
F-41	4242	6/12/1935	Medford	Rush	Applegate 35 mi SW
F-135	4243	6/12/1935	Gold Beach	Gold Beach	Port Orford
GF-5	4244	6/23/1935	Marshfield	Sitkum	
F-7	4245	6/10/1935	Cascade Locks	Wyeth	Camp 7 mi W
F-20	4246	6/14/1935	Mill City	Detroit	Mary Creek Coffin Mtn 28 mi E
GF-1	4247	6/14/1935	Cottage Grove	Drain	Quarter 37 mi N
F-29	4248	6/14/1935	Cushman	Yachote	Cape Creek 26 mi E
F-30	4249	6/7/1935	Mapleton	Mapleton	Camp 2 mi N
SP-12	4250	6/7/1935	Junction City	Cheshire	Long Tom 17 mi NE
SP-14	4251	6/7/1935	Pendleton	Pilot Rock	Battle Mtn 39 mi N
SP-15	4252	6/7/1935	Camdon	Fossil	Shelton 34 mi N
BR-44	4253	6/7/1935	Stanfield	Stanfield	Camp .5 mi N
SCS-1	4254	6/25/1935	Gibbon	Gibbon	Squaw Creek 3 mi N
SCS-2	4255	6/25/1935	Heppner	Heppner	AT-RH
SCS-4	4256	6/25/1935	More	More	Camp .75 mi W
SCS-5	4257	6/25/1935	Maupin	Simnasho	Camp 25 mi NE
SCS-6	4258	6/25/1935	Camdon	Camdon	Camp .5 mi S
F-110	4280	6/14/1935	Redmond	Sherman	Sisters 36 mi E
G-90	4603	7/22/1938	Harper	Harper	Sisters 36 mi E
P-211	4742	1/16/1936	Medford	Rogue River	Wimer 34 mi NW
F-96	4753	5/20/1937	Crescent lake	Crescent Lake	Odell Lake 6 mi N
SP-9	4764	10/12/1936	Silverton	Silverton	Silver Creek Falls 25 mi SE
SP-7	4765	10/12/1936	Cascade Locks	Cascade Locks	Camp 7 mi W
F-102	4775	5/2/1937	Enterprise	Enterprise	Cloverdale .5 mi NW
BF-3	4787	10/18/1936	Burns	Burns	Buena Vista 44 mi S
G-166	4787	11/1/1941	Caldwell, ID	Jordan Valley	Rome 99 mi S
BR-42	4788	10/18/1936	Ontario	Ontario	Camp 6 mi W
SCS-4	5428	10/14/1937	More	More	Camp 1 mi W
GLO-6	5428	5/5/1939	Cottage Grove	Disston	Brice Creek 29 mi SE
F-71	5436	6/6/1938	Tillamook	Blaine	Nestuca 27 mi S
F-29	5436	7/10/1941	Cushman	Yachote	Camp 26 mi N
F-141	5436	12/2/1941	Toledo	Waldport	Albert Angell 29 mi SW
F-106	5443	10/14/1937	Marshfield	Powers	
P-211	5453	10/12/1937	Medford	Rogue River	Wimer 34 mi NW
DG-23	5457	10/12/1937	Klamath Falls	Bonanza	Camp 34 mi E

PROJECT	CO. #	DATE	RAILROAD	POST OFFICE	LOCATION
G-152	5457	11/1/1938	Prineville	Prineville	Bear Creek 20 mi S
P-227	5461	10/11/1937	Timber	Timber	Rechers 2 mi S
F-41	5463	10/14/1937	Medford	Rush	Applegate 35 mi SW
BR-41	5470	10/14/1937	Klamath Falls	Merrell	Camp 19 mi SE
P-217	5477	10/14/1937	Tillamook	Tillamook	Trask 14 mi E
F-117	5478	7/7/1941	Roseburg	Tiller	South Umpqua Falls 65 mi SE
NP-1	5483	6/20/1938	Medford	Union Creek	Annie Springs 75 mi NE
NM-1	5483	1/1/1937	Kirby	Kirby	Camp Oregon Caves
NP-1	5483	6/15/1940	Klamath Falls	Crater Lake	Annie Springs 57 mi NW
F-111	5484	6/17/1938	Medford	Diamond Lake	Camp 85 mi NE
F-116	5708	5/19/1937	Pendleton	Albee	Ukiah 60 mi S
SCS-7	6403	7/12/1940	Grants Pass	Williams	Williams Creek 2 mi SE
GLO-3	6408	7/9/1940	Marshfield	Sitkum	Sitkum 35 mi SE
F-104	6410	7/13/1940	Medford	Butte Falls	South Fork Rogue River 42 mi NE
GLO-7	6416	7/12/1940	Bend	Brothers	
F-112	6417	7/10/1940	Redmond	Prineville	Mill Creek 45 mi NE
F-115	6417	11/26/1941	Burns	Canyon City	Canyon Creek 58 mi N
S-220	6418	7/12/1940	Corvallis	Corvallis	Arboretum 6 mi N
F-119	6442	11/1/1940	Klamath Falls	Bly	Bly 54 mi NE

F National Forest
S State Forest
P Private Forest
MC Private Land (Mosquito Control)
A Agriculture (Bureau of Animal Industry)
BF Federal Game Refuge
BS (Biological Survey)
NA National Arboretum (Bureau of Plant Industry)
D Private Land (Soil Conservation Service)
TVA Tennessee Valley Authority
BR Federal Reclamation Project
G (Department of Grazing);

DG Public Domain (Grazing)
GF Oregon and California Land Grant (Grazing)
GLO (Grazing Service/Land Grant)
GNP (Grazing Service/National Park)
MP Military Park
PE Private Land Erosion
DPE Drainage Private Land Erosion
MA Municipal Area
SP State Park
TVA-P Tennessee Valley Authority (State Park Division)
A Army Military Reservations
C of E State Land (Corps of Engineers)
Navy Naval Military Reservation

The spelling of the names of post offices and nearest rail road towns was as shown in the Day Report.
The shaded camps are the ones contained in this book.

The information contained in these listings was taken from CCC day reports showing company location and date. Town names appear as they were spelled out in the reports. The NACCCA (National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni) used the "day reports" as follows: 30 September 1933; 30 June 1934; 30 June 1935; 30 June 1936; 30 June 1937; 30 June 1938; 11 December 1939; 30 June 1940; 31 October 1941; 31 January 1942; and 31 July 1942.

In 1933 Robert Fechner wrote down his goals for the CCC. They are as follows.

MY HOPES FOR THE CCC

Robert Fechner
Director, The Civilian Conservation Corps

1. FOR five and a half years, a Legion of Youth, the Civilian Conservation Corps, has been charting a new conservation course for Uncle Sam, a course that provides for the gradual up building of our natural resources of timber and soil. As a result, the nation is moving toward an admittedly distant goal of a balanced natural resources budget.

2. Under the competent supervision of trained foresters and technicians of federal and state departments and agencies dealing with conservation matters, some two million young men, together with a sprinkling of war veterans and Indians, have been laboring since the spring of 1933 on a wide variety of conservation projects. They have planted new forests on unproductive lands, strengthened forest and park protection systems to reduce forest devastation by forest fires, insects and disease, built new recreational facilities to improve the civic usefulness of our parks and forests and initiated and advanced a huge scale program for demonstrating practical erosion control measures to farmers.

3. Altogether, some 4,500 CCC camps of 200 men each have been established in national, state and private forests, on the public domain and on wildlife refuges in various parts of the country. At the present time more than 1,500 camps, including those on Indian reservations and in Alaska, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Hawaii, are in operation. Out of these camps each day go some 300,000 enrollees to plant trees, build truck trails, erect fire detection towers, lay telephone lines, improve grazing conditions in national forests and on the public domain, rehabilitate reclamation projects in the west and drainage ditches on farm lands, build check dams and plant quick growing trees and vegetation to protect private farm lands from soil wastage, to conserve water and prevent floods, to conduct campaigns against the white pine blister rust, the gypsy moth, bark beetles and rodents, to improve living conditions for wildlife and to do a host of other jobs related in a greater or lesser degree to the national task of conserving and rebuilding America's natural resources wealth.

4. The records in my office indicate that the 2,300,000 enrollees who have left their homes to work for from a few months to two years in the healthful outdoor atmosphere of the CCC camps have labored on some 150 different types of work. Operating under regulations and policies initiated or approved by the office of the director, the War Department has enrolled the men after they had been selected by the Department of Labor and the Veterans' Administration, constructed the camps, transported the men to and from projects, paid enrollees, clothed and fed them and looked after their welfare. The cost of maintaining a boy in a CCC camp this year, with all costs charged against an enrollee, it totals about $1,000 per man. Next year it will be a little larger, as new camps will have to be built. Altogether about two billion dollars has been expended on the CCC program, about twenty-three per cent going home to the parents of enrollees in the form of relief.

5. No attempt has been made to turn the camps into formal schools. We do everything we can to fit enrollees for a useful life but the CCC is a work centered organization and not a substitute for high schools and colleges. It is, however, a practical school where young men in their teens and early twenties are taught how to work, how to live and how to get ahead. In the camps enrollees learn the fundamentals of good citizenship while acquiring work experience and practical skills. One of the fundamentals of the CCC program is that enrollees put in a full five day, forty hour week whenever climatic conditions permit. This is done in the belief that the work discipline and training acquired by enrollees on the job and through the normal routine of orderly camp living represents the best training and preparation for useful citizenship that we can offer. Every effort is made to improve the physical condition of enrollees so that they will leave the camp with sound physiques. Good food, medical care, comfortable clothing and instruction in sanitation and personal hygiene are furnished all enrollees.

6. In camp enrollees follow a daily regime which includes regular hours for sleeping, eating, working, recreation, as well as a reasonable time for study and personal advancement. Academic courses and vocational training in a more limited degree are provided in all camps. Illiterates are taught to read and write. Backward enrollees are grounded in the three "r's."

7. So much for the broad outline of the CCC program to date. It is my opinion that sufficient time has now elapsed for the average citizen to pass judgment upon the usefulness of the Corps, both as a force for conserving

our natural resources and as a builder of vigorous young manhood.

8. As director of the Corps, I have watched it grow from an experimental question mark into a sound, well-knit operating organization which takes pride in the fact that it gives the taxpayer a full return for every cent spent. There is no doubt but that the four cooperating departments—War, Interior, Agriculture and Labor—have done a splendid job.

9. But notwithstanding the fact that the Corps has been and continues to be popular with the general public, the question arises as to whether steps cannot be taken which will improve our work output and the service rendered youth and the nation. Some students of the CCC program have suggested that more time be devoted to enrollee education and training. Some have felt that the Corps costs too much. The question also has arisen as to whether the Corps was not departing too much from its original work objectives.

10. Before discussing possible changes in future work programs, I want to go on record as stating that in my opinion no phase of the CCC program is more important than our relationship with youth. I am hopeful that as time passes we can do even more than we are doing today to assist youth to become self-supporting. I am not a believer in coddling youngsters and so long as I am director I intend to do everything I can to help young men develop self-reliance and pride in their ability to make their own way in the world. I want enrollees to have every possible educational and training opportunity that can be given them without sacrificing the CCC work program. I have never been in favor of shortening the work week of forty hours to provide additional time for schooling, as I believe young men obtaining their first work experience should learn at the beginning that they must do an honest day's work and do it every day when they are employed if they are to be worth their salt. I take genuine pride in the fact that employers uniformly report that former enrollees have the right attitude toward work.

11. We have been making a thorough study of the CCC educational system this last year. We are improving the education and training set-up from the top down, developing improved training and instructional courses, closely scrutinizing the results being obtained and developing a system which will make certain that education and training facilities in each camp are used to the utmost. I am hopeful that at the end of this year I can report that each enrollee received ten hours of general and vocational instruction each week.

12. Our records show we have spent about two billion dollars on the CCC. Although I do not consider CCC costs have been high when viewed in the light of the Corps' accomplishments, pressure is being exerted at every point to reduce CCC expenditures. I hope it will be possible through consolidation of motor repair units, the operation of salvage and reclamation depots similar to the one operated by the Army at Columbus, Ohio, and a general tightening up of the CCC administrative and operating machine, to reduce costs still lower. A reduction in enrollee turnover between enrollment periods, except when men leave to accept employment, would help. In this connection it is interesting to know that some 450,000 enrollees have left to accept jobs prior to completing their terms of enrollment.

13. On one point, however, the CCC cannot afford to economize too far. I refer to the expenditure of funds for careful supervision and guidance of camp work projects. The fact that all CCC work has been carefully supervised has added to CCC costs, but it has been worth it. The Corps seeks to give enrollees the best possible leadership and the best technical direction. High class, experienced reserve officers in charge of camps mean better leadership for the enrollees, better camp morale, better food, fewer desertions and disciplinary discharges and a better all-around camp atmosphere. Carefully trained and experienced project superintendents and foremen mean carefully planned work programs, a higher work output and better trained enrollees. Seasoned and able camp educational advisers mean that camp educational programs will be simple and practical and well organized.

14. The CCC's health program has been outstandingly successful. Without exception, Corps area commanding officers have acted vigorously to safeguard the health of enrollees and build them up physically. In some Corps areas, physical training has been made a regular rather than an optional feature of daily camp life. While undoubtedly enrollees get plenty of exercise, the physical drills have been helpful in improving posture and in developing coordination of mind and muscle. Perhaps it would be a good thing if physical training were provided in all camps.

15. Adoption of a first class distinctive uniform which enrollees could wear when not at work would be a good thing for the Corps. It would undoubtedly build up morale and improve the appearance of the enrollees. I hope it will be possible to give the CCC a uniform before a not too distant date.

16. Before expressing my hopes for the future in the field of conservation, let me present a few figures on work

accomplishments. Our records compiled from camp figures by the Bureau of the Census show that the national reforestation program has been advanced by the planting of more than 1,501,662,800 forest tree seedlings on 1,501,663 acres of bare, barren or unproductive land; by improving forest stands on 3,115,534 acres and by campaigns against tree diseases, such as the white pine blister rust, and tree-attacking insects on 17,279,975 acres.

17. Forest fire protection systems have been strengthened in public forests and parks and adjacent areas by the construction of 98,444 miles of truck trails and minor roads, the building of 66,161 miles of telephone lines, reduction of fire hazards along 65,576 miles of roads and trails, the erection of more than 3,459 fire lookout houses and towers, and the construction of 41,303 bridges and 45,350 buildings of various types.

18. The presence of enrollees in the forests has furnished the nation a first class forest fire-fighting patrol during fire seasons with the result that millions of acres of forest and park land have been saved from fire damage. Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees have expended 7,930,912 man-days on forest fire-fighting duty or on fire prevention or fire pre-suppression work.

19. It has furnished men and material for the initiation and advancement of a nation-wide erosion control program. Since the spring of 1934 the Corps has constructed 4,132,660 check dams and planted 175,886,495 quick-growing type trees on eroded farm areas.

20. It has opened up recreational opportunities in the nation's forests and parks for millions by stimulating new state park development projects, by improving and developing recreational facilities in national and state parks, and in other areas.

21. It has aroused national interest in wildlife conservation by furnishing men and funds for acquisition and development of a chain of wildlife refuges, by improving conditions for fishing and by stimulating federal and state agencies to greater wildlife conservation activity. In this connection, the CCC has built 4,105 fish-rearing pools, expanded national and state fish hatchery facilities, improved more than 6,207 miles of streams, stocked lakes, ponds and streams with 636,447,728 fingerlings and young fish and conducted rodent control operations over 30,774,049 acres.

22. In reviewing the past five years of the Corps, and looking into its future, it is well to recall its original purpose and scope. The original CCC Act of March 31, 1933, sets up pretty clearly the two main purposes of the Corps, unemployment relief and "restoration of the country's depleted natural resources." Later wording amplifies the first statement and refers to "forestation" of federal and state "lands suitable for timber production, protection or prevention of forest fires, floods and soil erosion, insect and fungous attacks, and the construction, maintenance and repair of paths, trails and fire lanes within national forests and parks."

23. The Act of June 28, 1937, sets up three objectives of great importance—to provide employment, to provide vocational training and to perform "useful public work in connection with the conservation and development of the natural resources of the United States."

24. First, let me emphasize that the providing of jobs for unemployed youth is equally but no more important than the doing of needed conservation work. Secondly, that the two CCC Acts both emphasize that the work program is to be conservation of natural resources.

25. But back of these Congressional Acts, before even the original Act was passed on March 31, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt expressed himself very clearly on what he had in mind as to the CCC, its purpose, scope and work. In his message of March 21, 1933, to the Congress, he said in part:

26. "I propose to create a civilian conservation corps to be used in simple work, not interfering with normal employment, and confining itself to forestry, the prevention of soil erosion, flood control and similar projects."

27. Since the first camps were established on national forests and national parks, we have departed in some measure from that original program of objectives—"forestry, the prevention of soil erosion, flood control and similar projects." In addition to forestation and erosion work, the Corps has done a vast amount of recreational work. It has developed parks in states, counties, municipalities and other areas set aside by federal or local agencies for recreational use. It is not too much to say that the CCC put the now flourishing state park system on its feet.

28. But has it done enough of tree planting? Has it concentrated enough on work which will conserve water and soil and prevent floods? Have enough men been assigned to blister rust control and on campaigns to reduce damages caused by insects such as the bark beetle? I believe that the work we have done to develop our national parks and state parks and related areas has been more than justified by the avenues of outdoor enjoyment which we have made available to the public and that we should continue our recreational work on a scale commensurate with public need. At the same time, I think the time has come when it would

be well to give consideration to the placing of even greater emphasis than we have in the past upon the planting of trees and other reforestation work, the control of erosion, upstream engineering and the protection and improvement of national parks and monuments.

29. Projects for which adult unemployed labor is available or for which adult labor is better suited normally should not be done with CCC labor. This means that the use of the CCC in or near towns or cities, or on large engineering structures where either the adult unemployed or contract labor can be properly used, should not ordinarily be undertaken by the Corps. The CCC is a young, unskilled, mobile force which can be employed to advantage in regions remote from cities or labor centers. There have been complaints on the ground that the CCC youths have deprived locally available adult labor of jobs in different parts of the country. Greater care should be taken to avoid approval of projects requiring a large amount of annual maintenance to keep them usable. In this connection, state and local organizations should refrain from recommending work projects which they are unprepared to maintain in a usable condition after the CCC camp completes its work.

30. Before listing some of the types of conservation work which I believe should be stressed in the future, I venture the hope that both federal and state conservation organizations will concentrate on the working out of long-range programs for the conservation and use of natural resource wealth so that the CCC work programs can be maintained at their present high standard. I hope that state and federal officials will work out comprehensive programs for development work in each state so that every bit of work done by the CCC will be of maximum value to the state and to the general public. I would like to see a national program, with major types of project shown, covering conservation work that should be done over the next five or ten years. If such a master plan is available, I have not seen it. In my own opinion, major types of work upon which the CCC should concentrate, are:

31. (1) Forest Protection. Forests in federal, state and private ownership and federal and state parks must continue to be protected from fire, insects and fungi.

32. (2) Reforestation. There are some 138 millions of acres of barren, denuded, abandoned forest and sub-marginal lands in this country. These should be made productive by growing forests, whether in national park or forest or in state forest or park. The CCC has not done enough tree planting. A program calling for the planting each year of 500,000,000 trees would not be too ambitious.

33. (3) Flood Control. The "upstream engineering" part of the national flood control job entrusted to Army engineers and the Department of Agriculture by Congress under the Flood Control Act of 1936 is admirably suited for the CCC to perform. This work is not suited for contract labor, as it consists of many small jobs and is in remote or isolated locations where the Corps can function to good advantage. The CCC should be definitely in this program.

34. (4) Soil Conservation. The saving of our fertile soils and the building up of depleted soils are basic to our future as a nation wherever these lands lie. Here is a splendid job for the Corps to continue.

35. (5) Development of Recreation Resources. The population of the country is growing and public appreciation of outdoor recreational facilities is mounting. I feel this work should be continued where needed. As public use and enjoyment of our wooded areas increases, public interest in our conservation stake will rise.

36. (6) Wildlife Restoration. Many years of restoration work yet remains to be done on federal forests and parks and in federal and state game refuges and sanctuaries.

Reprinted from AMERICAN FORESTS: The Magazine of The American Forestry Association, Washington, D.C. (January, 1939).

Robert Fechner (22 March 1876 - 31 December 1939) was a national labor union leader and director of the Civilian Conservation Corps (1933–39), which played a central role in the development of state and national parks in the United States. He was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee. With only a public school elementary education he rose to become an American labor union leader and vice president of the International Association of Machinists. He had a reputation for fairness, tact, and patience in all his dealings. On April 5, 1933 he was appointed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to be the Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). It was Fechner's fairness and ability for organization and administration that impressed the president and led to his appointment as director. Although he had been an important labor figure, Fechner objected attempts for union organizers to form unions among CCC enrollees in the camps. He felt that the government was doing all it possibly could for the well-being of the enrollees: they were well fed, supporting dependents with monthly earnings, getting an education—and they were contributing in a constructive manner to the conservation needs of the nation. The need for a union in this situation was not necessary, and he issued orders to keep union organizers out of the CCC camps, giving instructions that if any of the

CCC enrollees joined a union they were to be discharged. Upon Fechner's death while still serving as CCC Director, he was succeeded by James McEntee.

On February 5, 1941, President Roosevelt signed an Executive Order designating the Robert Fechner Memorial Forest on the Massanutten Unit of the George Washington National Forest, as described in proclamation No. 2311 of November 23, 1938.

Fechner's likeness appeared on the cover of Time magazine on February 6, 1939. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

LIST OF CIVILIAN PUBLIC SERVICE CAMPS 1941–1947

Numbers were assigned to camps as they were established, not necessarily in the order in which the camps were opened. Camp #3 was the first to be opened, in May 1941. Camps #38, 65, 96, 99, 101 & 145 were suspended before they opened.

SSS = Selective Service System

PROJECT	CO. #	DATE	RAILROAD	POST OFFICE
A	[no official name assigned]	Richmond, Indiana	AFSC	Soil Conservation Service [only open June-July 1941]
1	Onekama	Manistee, Michigan	BCS	U.S. Forest Service
2	Glendora	San Dimas, California	AFSC	U.S. Forest Service
3	Patapsco	Elkridge, Maryland	AFSC	National Park Service
4	[no official name assigned]	Grottoes, Virginia	MCC	Soil Conservation Service
5	[no official name assigned]	Colorado Springs, Colorado	MCC	Soil Conservation Service
6	[no official name assigned]	Lagro, Indiana	BSC	Soil Conservation Service
7	[no official name assigned]	Magnolia, Arkansas	BSC	Soil Conservation Service
8	[no official name assigned]	Marietta, Ohio	BCS-MCC	U.S. Forest Service
9	[no official name assigned]	Petersham, Massachusetts	AFSC	U.S. Forest Service
10	[no official name assigned]	Royalston, Massachusetts	AFSC	U.S. Forest Service
11	[no official name assigned]	Ashburnham, Massachusetts	AFSC	U.S. Forest Service
12	[no official name assigned]	Cooperstown, New York	AFSC	U.S. Forest Service
13	[no official name assigned]	Bluffton, Indiana	MCC	U.S. Forest Service
14	[no official name assigned]	Merom, Indiana	AFSC	Soil Conservation Service
15	[no official name assigned]	Stoddard, New Hampshire	ACCO	U.S. Forest Service
16	[no official name assigned]	Kane, Pennsylvania	BSC	U.S. Forest Service
17	Stronach	Manistee, Michigan	BSC	U.S. Forest Service
18	[no official name assigned]	Denison, Iowa	MCC	Soil Conservation Service
19	Buck Creek	Marion, North Carolina	AFSC	National Park Service
20	Sideling Hill	Wells Tannery, Pennsylvania	MCC	Soil Conservation Service
21	[no official name assigned]	Cascade Locks, Oregon	BSC	U.S. Forest Service
22	[no official name assigned]	Henry, Illinois	MCC	Soil Conservation Service
23	[no official name assigned]	Coshocton, Ohio	AFSC	Soil Conservation Service
24	Washington County [unit 1?]	Hagerstown, Maryland	MCC	Soil Conservation Service
	Washington County [unit 2?]	Williamsport, Maryland	BSC	Soil Conservation Service
	Washington County [unit 3?]	Boonsboro, Maryland	MCC	Soil Conservation Service
	Washington County [unit 4?]	Clearspring, Maryland	MCC	Soil Conservation Service
	Washington County [unit 5?]	New Windsor, Maryland	BSC	Soil Conservation Service
25	[no official name assigned]	Weeping Waters, Nebraska	MCC	Soil Conservation Service
26	Alexian Brothers Hospital	Chicago, Illinois	ACCO	General Hospital
27	Florida State Board of Health (Crestview, Florida) [unit 1?]	Tallahassee, Florida	BSC	Public Health Service

PROJECT	CO. #	DATE	RAILROAD	POST OFFICE
	Florida State Board of Health (Crestview, Florida) [unit 2?]	Mulberry, Florida	MCC	Public Health Service
	Florida State Board of Health (Crestview, Florida) [unit 3?]	Orlando, Florida	AFSC	Public Health Service
	Florida State Board of Health (Crestview, Florida) [unit 4?]	Gainesville, Florida	BSC	Public Health Service
28	Jasper-Pulaski	Medaryville, Indiana	MCC	U.S. Forest Service
29	[no official name assigned]	Lyndhurst, Virginia	BSC	National Park Service
30	[no official name assigned]	Walhalla, Michigan	BSC	U.S. Forest Service
31	Placerville	Camino, California	MCC	U.S. Forest Service
32	[no official name assigned]	West Campton, New Hampshire	AFSC	U.S. Forest Service
33	[no official name assigned]	Fort Collins, Colorado (& Buckingham Side Camp)	MCC	Soil Conservation Service
34	Patuxent	Bowie, Maryland	BSC, SSS	Fish & Wildlife Service
35	[no official name assigned]	North Fork, California	MCC (& detached service under NSBRO at various locations)	U.S. Forest Service
36	[no official name assigned]	Santa Barbara, California	BCS	U.S. Forest Service
37	Antelope	Coleville, California	AFSC	U.S. Forest Service
38	Salem Hospital	Salem, Oregon	BSC	General Hospital
39	[no official name assigned]	Galax, Virginia	BSC	National Park Service
40	[no official name assigned]	Howard, Pennsylvania	MCC	Soil Conservation Service
41	Eastern State Hospital	Williamsburg, Virginia	AFSC, SSS	State Mental Hospital
42	[no official name assigned]	Wellston, Michigan	BSC	U.S. Forest Service
43	Castaner Project [unit 1?]	Adjuntas, Puerto Rico	BSC	Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration
	Castaner Project [unit 2?]	Zalduondo, Puerto Rico	AFSC	Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration
	Castaner Project [unit 3?]	Aibonita, Puerto Rico	MCC	Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration
	Castaner Project [unit 4?]	St. Thomas, Virgin Islands	BSC	Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration
44	Western State Hospital	Staunton, Virginia	MCC	State Mental Hospital
45	Shenandoah National Park	Luray, Virginia	MCC	National Park Service
46	[no official name assigned]	Big Flats, New York	AFSC, SSS	Soil Conservation Service
47	Springfield State Hospital	Sykesville, Maryland	BSC	State Mental Hospital
48	[no official name assigned]	Marienville, Pennsylvania	BSC	U.S. Forest Service
49	Philadelphia State Hospital	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	AFSC, SSS	State Mental Hospital
50	Presbyterian Hospital	New York, New York	AFSC	General Hospital
51	[no official name assigned]	Fort Steilacoom, Washington	BSC	State Mental Hospital
52	[no official name assigned]	Powellsville [Powellville]*, Maryland	AFSC, MCC	Soil Conservation Service
53	[no official name assigned]	Gorham, New Hampshire	AFSC	U.S. Forest Service
54	[no official name assigned]	Warner, New Hampshire	ACCO	U.S. Forest Service
55	[no official name assigned]	Belton, Montana	MCC	National Park Service
56	[no official name assigned]	Waldport, Oregon	BSC	U.S. Forest Service
57	[no official name assigned]	Hill City, South Dakota	MCC	National Park Service

PROJECT	CO. #	DATE	RAILROAD	POST OFFICE
58	Delaware State Hospital	Farnhurst, Delaware	MCC	State Mental Hospital
59	[no official name assigned]	Elkton, Oregon	AFSC	General Land Office
60	[no official name assigned]	Lapine, Oregon	MCC	Bureau of Reclamation
61	Duke University Hospital	Durham, North Carolina	MWPC	General Hospital
62	Cheltenham School for Boys	Cheltenham, Maryland	AFSC	State Training School
63	New Jersey State Hospital	Marlboro, New Jersey	MCC	State Mental Hospital
64	[no official name assigned]	Terry, Montana	MCC	Soil Conservation Service
65	Utica State Hospital	Utica, New York		State Mental Hospital
66	Norristown Hospital	Norristown, Pennsylvania	MCC	State Mental Hospital
67	[no official name assigned]	Downey, Idaho	MCC	Soil Conservation Service
68	Norwich Hospital	Norwich, Connecticut	BSC	State Mental Hospital
69	Cleveland State Hospital	Cleveland, Ohio	AFSC, MCC	State Mental Hospital
70	Dayton State Hospital	Dayton, Ohio	BSC	State Mental Hospital
71	Lima State Hospital	Lima, Ohio	MCC	State Mental Hospital
72	Hawthornden State Hospital	Macedonia, Ohio	MCC	State Mental Hospital
73	Columbus State Hospital	Columbus, Ohio	BSC	State Mental Hospital
74	Eastern Shore State Hospital	Cambridge, Maryland	BSC, ABHMS	State Mental Hospital
75	Medical Lake Hospital	Medical Lake, Washington	AFSC	State Mental Hospital
76	[no official name assigned]	Glendora, California	AFSC & SSS	U.S. Forest Service
77	Greystone Park State Hospital	Greystone Park, New Jersey	MCC	State Mental Hospital
78	Colorado Psychopathic Hospital	Denver, Colorado	MCC	State Mental Hospital
79	Utah State Hospital	Provo, Utah	MCC	State Mental Hospital
80	Lyons Veterans Hospital	Lyons, New Jersey	BSC	Veterans' Administration Hospital (or Mental Hospital?)
81	Connecticut State Hospital	Middletown, Connecticut	AFSC, SSS	State Mental Hospital
82	Fairfield State Hospital	Newtown, Connecticut	BSC	State Mental Hospital
83	Warren State Hospital	Warren, Pennsylvania	AFSC, SSS	State Mental Hospital
84	New Hampshire State Hospital	Concord, New Hampshire	AFSC, SSS	State Mental Hospital
85	Rhode Island State Hospital	Howard, Rhode Island	MCC	State Mental Hospital
86	Mt. Pleasant State Hospital	Mt. Pleasant, Iowa	MCC	State Mental Hospital
87	Brattleboro Retreat	Brattleboro, Vermont	AFSC, SSS	State Mental Hospital
88	Augusta State Hospital	Augusta, Maine	BSC	State Mental Hospital
89	[no official name assigned]	Oakland, Maryland	AFSC	U.S. Forest Service
90	Ypsilanti State Hospital	Ypsilanti, Michigan	MCC	State Mental Hospital
91	Mansfield State Training School & Hospital	Mansfield Depot, Connecticut	BSC	State Training School
92	[no official name assigned]	Vineland, New Jersey	MCC	State Training School
93	Harrisburg State Hospital	Harrisburg, Pennsylvania	MCC	State Mental Hospital
94	[no official name assigned]	Trenton, North Dakota	AFSC (with Farm Security Administration)	Soil Conservation Service
95	[no official name assigned]	Buckley, Washington	BSC	State Training School
96	[no official name assigned]	Rochester, Minnesota	MCC	State Mental Hospital
97.1	[no official name assigned]	San Joaquin County, California	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm

PROJECT	CO. #	DATE	RAILROAD	POST OFFICE
97.2	[no official name assigned]	El Paso County, Colorado	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.3	[no official name assigned]	Hartford County, Connecticut	AFSC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.4	[no official name assigned]	McHenry County, Illinois	BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.5	[no official name assigned]	Worcester County, Massachusetts	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.6	[no official name assigned]	Cecil County, Maryland	BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.7	[no official name assigned]	Harford County, Maryland	BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.8	[no official name assigned]	Montgomery County, Maryland	AFSC, BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.9	[no official name assigned]	Queen Anne County, Maryland	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.1	[no official name assigned]	Genessee County, Michigan	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.11	[no official name assigned]	Lenawee County, Michigan	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.12	[no official name assigned]	Hillsboro County, New Hampshire	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.13	[no official name assigned]	Sussex County, New Jersey	BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.14	[no official name assigned]	Chenango County, New York	BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.15	[no official name assigned]	Delaware County, New York	BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.16	[no official name assigned]	Madison County, New York	BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.17	[no official name assigned]	Orange County, New York	BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.18	[no official name assigned]	St. Lawrence County, New York	BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.19	[no official name assigned]	Cuyahoga County, Ohio	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.2	[no official name assigned]	Lorain County, Ohio	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.21	[no official name assigned]	Summit County, Ohio	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.22	[no official name assigned]	Wayne County, Ohio	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.23	[no official name assigned]	Coos County, Oregon	BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.24	[no official name assigned]	Tillamook County, Oregon	BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm

PROJECT	CO. #	DATE	RAILROAD	POST OFFICE
97.25	[no official name assigned]	Allegheny County, Pennsylvania	AFSC, MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.26	[no official name assigned]	Lancaster County, Pennsylvania	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.27	[no official name assigned]	Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania	BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.28	[no official name assigned]	York County, Pennsylvania	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.29	[no official name assigned]	King County, Washington	BSC, MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.3	[no official name assigned]	Dane County, Wisconsin	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.31	[no official name assigned]	Dodge County, Wisconsin	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.32	[no official name assigned]	Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.33	[no official name assigned]	Green County, Wisconsin	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
97.34	[no official name assigned]	Outagamie County, Wisconsin	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station: Dairy Farm
98	[no official name assigned]	various locations	SSS	Coast & Geodetic Survey
99	China Relief Unit	Chungking, China	AFSC	Foreign Service and Relief
100.1	[no official name assigned]	Connecticut	AFSC	Agriculture Experiment Station:- Dairy Herd Testing
100.2	[no official name assigned]	Delaware	AFSC	Agriculture Experiment Station:- Dairy Herd Testing
100.3	[no official name assigned]	Georgia	AFSC	Agriculture Experiment Station:- Dairy Herd Testing
100.4	[no official name assigned]	Illinois	BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station:- Dairy Herd Testing
100.5	[no official name assigned]	Iowa	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station:- Dairy Herd Testing
100.6	[no official name assigned]	Maine	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station:- Dairy Herd Testing
100.7	[no official name assigned]	Maryland	BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station:- Dairy Herd Testing
100.8	[no official name assigned]	Michigan	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station:- Dairy Herd Testing
100.9	[no official name assigned]	New Jersey	BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station:- Dairy Herd Testing
100.1	[no official name assigned]	New York	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station:- Dairy Herd Testing
100.11	[no official name assigned]	Pennsylvania	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station:- Dairy Herd Testing
100.12	[no official name assigned]	Virginia	BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station:- Dairy Herd Testing

PROJECT	CO. #	DATE	RAILROAD	POST OFFICE
100.13	[no official name assigned]	Vermont	AFSC	Agriculture Experiment Station:- Dairy Herd Testing
100.14	[no official name assigned]	West Virginia	BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station:- Dairy Herd Testing
101	Foreign Relief & Reconstruction Project	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	NSBRO	Foreign Service and Relief
102	Rosewood State Training School	Owings Mills [Owingsmills?], Maryland	ACCO	State Training School
103	Missoula	Huson, Montana	MCC	U.S. Forest Service - smokejumpers
104	[no official name assigned]	Ames, Iowa	AFSC, SSS	Agriculture Experiment Station
105	[no official name assigned]	Lynchburg, Virginia	BSC	State Training School
106	Lincoln Experiment Station	Lincoln, Nebraska	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station
107	[no official name assigned]	Three Rivers, California	MCC	National Park Service
108	[no official name assigned]	Gatlinburg, Tennessee	AFSC, SSS	National Park Service
109	Southwestern State Hospital	Marion, Virginia	BSC	State Mental Hospital
110	All-State Hospital	Allentown, Pennsylvania	MCC	State Mental Hospital
111	[no official name assigned]	Mancos, Colorado	SSS	Bureau of Reclamation
112	East Lansing Experiment Station	East Lansing, Michigan	BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station
113	Minnesota Experiment Station	Waseca, Minnesota (& Duluth, Grand Rapids, St. Paul)	BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station
114	Mount Weather	Bluemont, Virginia	BSC	Weather Bureau
115.1**	California Institute of Technology	Pasadena, California	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [malaria] - human guinea pig experiments
115.2	University of Southern California	Los Angeles, California	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [altitude pressure] - human guinea pig experiments
115.3	Welfare Island Hospital	Welfare Island, New York	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [altitude pressure] - human guinea pig experiments
115.4	Welfare Island Hospital	Welfare Island, New York	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [life raft rations] - human guinea pig experiments
115.5	Welfare Island Hospital	Welfare Island, New York	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [high altitude] - human guinea pig experiments
115.6	Metropolitan Hospital	Welfare Island, New York	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [frost bite] - human guinea pig experiments
115.7	Psycho-Acoustic Laboratory, Harvard University	Cambridge, Massachusetts	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [malaria] - human guinea pig experiments
115.8	New York University	New York, New York	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [poison gas] - human guinea pig experiments

PROJECT	CO. #	DATE	RAILROAD	POST OFFICE
115.9	Stanford University	Stanford, California	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [malaria] - human guinea pig experiments
115.1	Massachusetts General Hospital	Boston, Massachusetts	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [sea water] - human guinea pig experiments
115.11	Massachusetts General Hospital	Boston, Massachusetts	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [malaria] - human guinea pig experiments
115.12	University of Michigan	Ann Arbor, Michigan	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [weather] - human guinea pig experiments
115.13	Haskins Laboratories	New York, New York	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [sensory device] - human guinea pig experiments
115.14	University of Rochester School of Medicine	Rochester, New York	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [cold weather] - human guinea pig experiments
115.15	Indiana University	Bloomington, Indiana	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [climatology] - human guinea pig experiments
115.16	University of Michigan	Ann Arbor, Michigan	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [physiological hygiene] - human guinea pig experiments
115.17	University of Minnesota: Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene	Minneapolis, Minnesota	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [starvation] - human guinea pig experiments
115.18	University of Minnesota	Minneapolis, Minnesota	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [thiamine / starvation] - human guinea pig experiments
115.19	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Cambridge, Massachusetts	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [malaria] - human guinea pig experiments
115.2	Ohio State University	Columbus, Ohio	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [physiology] - human guinea pig experiments
115.21	Strong Memorial Hospital / University of Rochester	Rochester, New York	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [physiology] - human guinea pig experiments
115.22	Goldwater Memorial Hospital	Welfare Island , New York	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [malaria] - human guinea pig experiments
115.23	Manteno State Hospital / University of Chicago	Chicago, Illinois	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [malaria] - human guinea pig experiments

PROJECT	CO. #	DATE	RAILROAD	POST OFFICE
115.24	Massachusetts General Hospital	Boston, Massachusetts	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [malaria] - human guinea pig experiments
115.25	Columbia University	New York, New York	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [malaria] - human guinea pig experiments
115.26	New York Hospital	New York, New York	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [bed rest] - human guinea pig experiments
115.27	Cornell University	Ithaca, New York	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [bed rest / cold conditions] - human guinea pig experiments
115.28	University of Illinois Medical School	Chicago, Illinois	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [high altitude / cold weather] - human guinea pig experiments
115.29	University of Chicago: Frank Billings Medical Clinic	Chicago, Illinois	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [high altitude] - human guinea pig experiments
115.3	University of Illinois	Urbana, Illinois	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [heat / tropical conditions] - human guinea pig experiments
115.31	Northwestern University Medical School	Chicago, Illinois	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [diet-altitude] - human guinea pig experiments
115.32	Mayo Clinic	Rochester, Minnesota	OSRD	Office of Scientific Research & Development [aero-medical] - human guinea pig experiments
115.33	??	Pinehurst, North Carolina**	OSRD	Office of the Surgeon General [atypical pneumonia] - human guinea pig experiments
116	University of Maryland	College Park, Maryland	BSC	Agriculture Experiment Station
117	Exeter	Lafayette, Rhode Island	MCC	State Training School
118	Western State Hospital	Wernersville, Pennsylvania	MCC	State Mental Hospital
119	[no official name assigned]	New Lisbon, New Jersey	AFSC, SSS	State Training School
120	Kalamazoo State Hospital	Kalamazoo, Michigan	MCC	State Mental Hospital
121	[no official name assigned]	Bedford, Virginia	BSC	National Park Service
122	Winnebago State Hospital	Winnebago, Wisconsin	MCC	State Mental Hospital
123	[no official name assigned]	Union Grove, Wisconsin	MCC	State Training School
124	[no official name assigned]	Stockley, Delaware	AFSC, SSS	State Training School
125	University of Maine Experiment Station	Orono, Maine	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station
126	Beltsville Research	Beltsville, Maryland	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station
127	[no official name assigned]	American Fork, Utah	MCC	State Training School
128	[no official name assigned]	Lapine, Oregon	SSS	Bureau of Reclamation

PROJECT	CO. #	DATE	RAILROAD	POST OFFICE
129	Pennhurst	Spring City [Grove?], Pennsylvania	AFSC, SSS	State Training School
130	[no official name assigned]	Pownal, Maine	AFSC, SSS	State Training School
131	Cherokee State Hospital	Cherokee, Iowa	MWPC	State Mental Hospital
132	[no official name assigned]	Laurel, Maryland	AFSC, SSS	State Training School
133	Ohio Experiment Station	Wooster, Ohio	AFSC, SSS	Agriculture Experiment Station
134	[no official name assigned]	Belden, California	BSC	U.S. Forest Service
135	Seney Wildlife Refuge	Germfask, Michigan	SSS	Fish & Wildlife Service
136	[no official name assigned]	Skillman, New Jersey	ABHMS	State Mental Hospital
137	Independence State Hospital	Independence, Iowa	EARC	State Mental Hospital
138	[no official name assigned]	Lincoln, Nebraska (& Malcolm & Waterloo)	MCC	Soil Conservation Service
139	Logansport State Hospital	Logansport, Indiana	DOC	State Mental Hospital
140.1**	[no official name assigned]	Pinehurst, North Carolina**	AFSC, BSC	Office of the Surgeon General [atypical pneumonia] - human guinea pig experiments
140.2	[no official name assigned]	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	AFSC, BSC	Office of the Surgeon General [jaundice] - human guinea pig experiments
140.3	[no official name assigned]	New Haven, Connecticut	AFSC, BSC	Office of the Surgeon General [neurotropic virus] - human guinea pig experiments
140.4	[no official name assigned]	Welfare Island, New York	AFSC, BSC	Office of the Surgeon General [life raft ration] - human guinea pig experiments
140.5	[no official name assigned]	New York, New York	AFSC, BSC	Office of the Surgeon General [frost bite] - human guinea pig experiments
140.6	[no official name assigned]	Ann Arbor, Michigan	AFSC, BSC	Office of the Surgeon General [physiological hygiene] - human guinea pig experiments
140.7	[no official name assigned]	Minneapolis, Minnesota	AFSC, BSC	Office of the Surgeon General [starvation] - human guinea pig experiments
140.8	[no official name assigned]	Chicago, Illinois	AFSC, BSC	Office of the Surgeon General [nutrition] - human guinea pig experiments
140.9	[no official name assigned]	Chicago, Illinois	AFSC, BSC	Office of the Surgeon General [physiology] - human guinea pig experiments
141	Mississippi State Board of Health	Gulfport, Mississippi	MCC	Public Health Service
142	[no official name assigned]	Woodbine, New Jersey	MCC	State Training School
143	Spring Grove State Hospital	Catonsville, Maryland	MCC	State Mental Hospital
144	Hudson River State Hospital	Poughkeepsie, New York	MCC	State Mental Hospital

PROJECT	CO. #	DATE	RAILROAD	POST OFFICE
145	[no official name assigned]	Wassaic, New York	MCC	State Training School
146	[no official name assigned]	Ithaca, New York	MCC	Agriculture Experiment Station
147	[no official name assigned]	Tiffin, Ohio	MCC	State Training School
148	[no official name assigned]	Minersville, California	SSS	U.S. Forest Service
149	[no official name assigned]	various locations	AFSC, BSC, SSS	U.S. Forest Service Research Project
150	Livermore Veterans' Hospital	Livermore, California	MCC	Veterans' Administration Hospital
151	Roseburg Veterans' Hospital	Roseburg, Oregon	MCC	Veterans' Administration Hospital
152?	[no official name assigned]	Hawaii	SSS	
153?	[no official name assigned]	Alaska	SSS	

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